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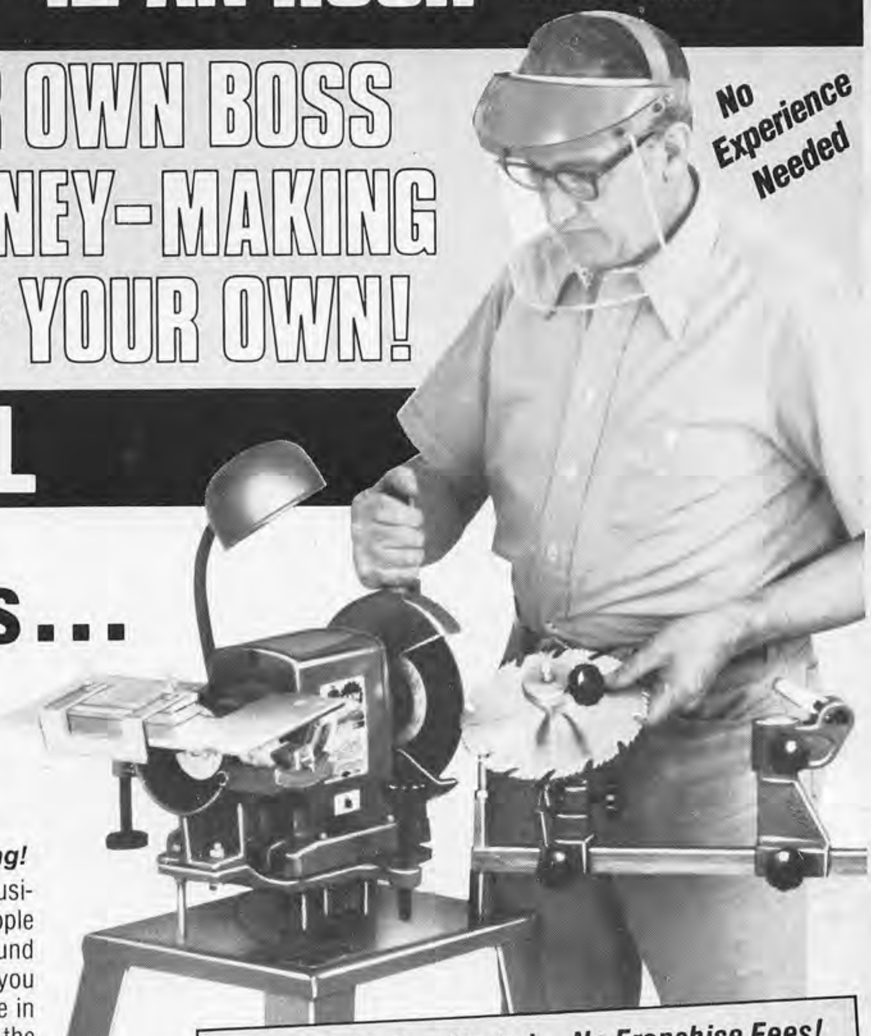

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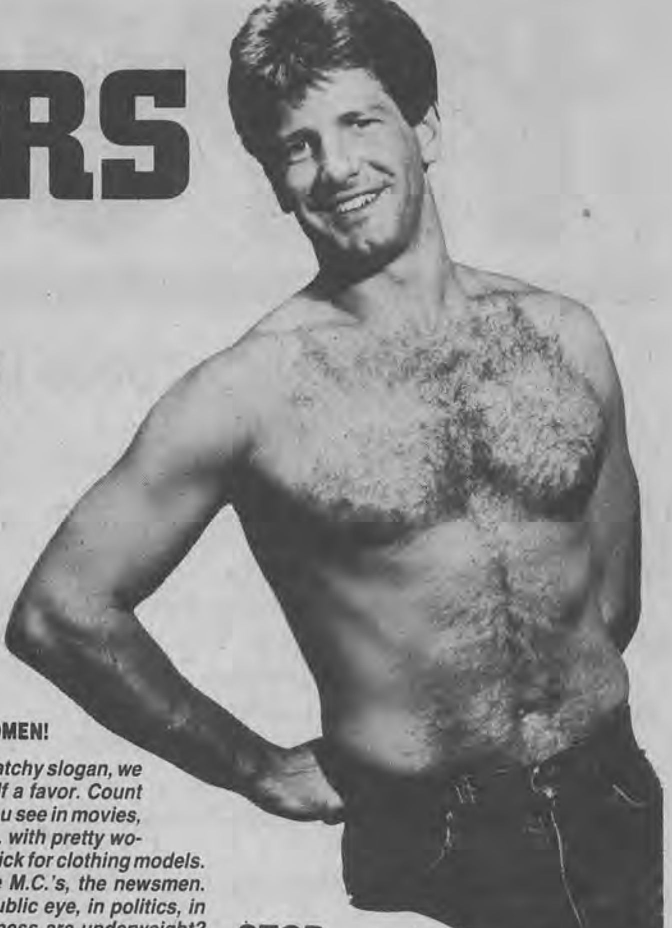

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If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

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Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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In these times when women are free to express themselves and pick and choose their men, you don't need a handicap . . . especially when it's so easy to put yourself in the forefront of competition. Why not look your best? And you will if you feel your best. And you'll feel your best when you gain the kind of nutrition that builds your body to its highest potential. Everyone knows that a healthy body brings a healthy mind and the kind of outlook that makes you want to kick up your heels . . . and go out and lick the world. Yes, with ***ShapeUp***, you give yourself a super-lift of confidence, built into its wondrous formula, that's compounded to perk you up and give you a winning attitude.

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THE Wrestler

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YOUR LETTERS

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Miss Linda grooms Adrian Street in the dressing room before a match. Yolanda Rodriguez, one of the few fans who appreciates Street's exoticism, was sorry to see him leave the Mid-South.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

I'm proud to say that I am the number one fan of Exotic Adrian Street and Miss Linda. Recently, they were here in the Mid-South area for about four months and I became very good friends with them. They are the nicest people! Adrian made mincemeat of all the opposition down here, eventually winning the TV title from Terry Taylor. When Adrian lost a loser-leave-town match to Taylor later on and had to leave Baton Rouge, I felt as if I had lost my two best friends. No longer would I be hearing that English accent that I so loved.

Linda, if you're reading this, you once told me that you'd be back someday. I certainly hope so. It just isn't the same without you guys here.

YOLANDA RODRIGUEZ
Baton Rouge, LA

LOVES ROCK 'N' ROLLS

It's simple: I love The Rock 'n' Roll Express. I think that Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson are the two most gorgeous and talented wrestlers in the world. They are sweet, kind, sensitive, and they honestly care for their fans. I cry whenever I see them on television or in the arenas. Whether they win, lose, or just have an interview on TV, tears come to my eyes. It hurts me that jerks such as Hercules Hernandez, Ted DiBiase, Steve Williams and Skandor Akbar try to beat up on them. How can anyone dislike two such lovable people? I know that The Rock 'n' Roll Express will succeed in defeating all these men on their way to the NWA tag team championship!

MICHELLE STOKES
Houston

WHO NEEDS HIM?

Sgt. Slaughter used to be one of my favorite wrestlers, but ever since he walked away from his feud with Nikolai Volkoff and fled the WWF I've lost a lot of respect for him. Slaughter couldn't beat Volkoff one on one, so he enlisted the aid of Junkyard Dog to help him fight Volkoff and The Iron Sheik, a man who also gave Slaughter a lot of trouble. After a couple of tense matches, Slaughter left the area and ran to the AWA.

Who needs him anyway? We have Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo, who are more patriotic than the sergeant anyday. When they storm into an arena with "Born in the U.S.A." blasting, it excites a crowd more than Slaughter ever could. They also interrupted Volkoff's singing of the Soviet

(Continued on page 49)

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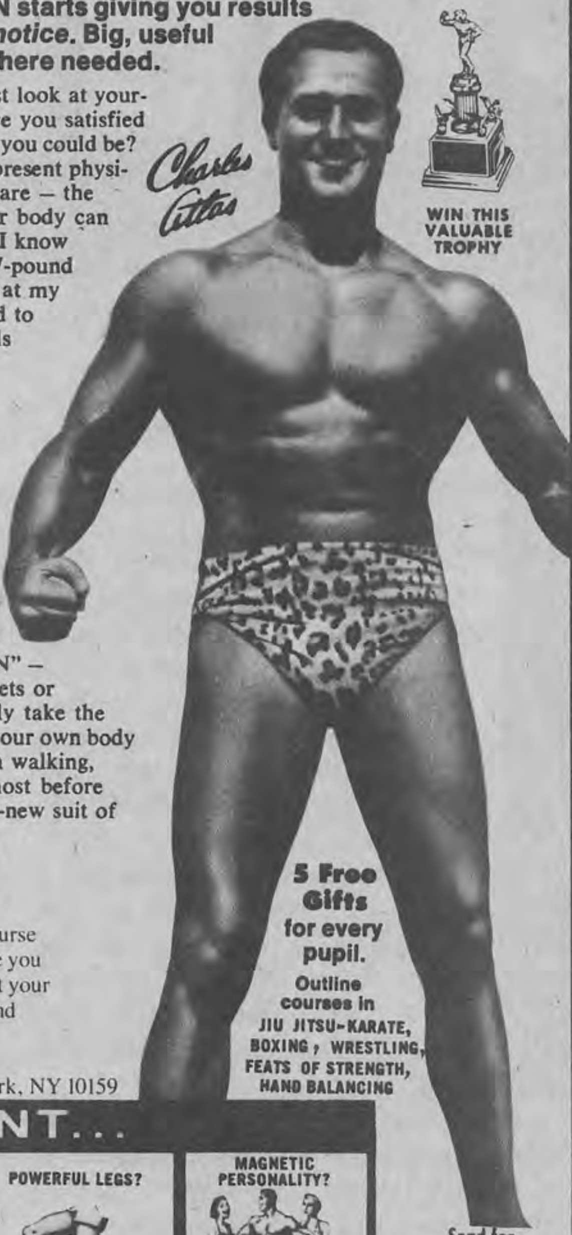

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

Jesse Barr, enlisting the aid of Bill Irwin, has regained the prestigious Florida State title from Brian Blair.

WE HAVE A new Florida champion: **Jesse Barr** regained the title from **Brian Blair** in Tampa, Florida—with a little help from **Bill Irwin**, who threw Barr a weapon from ringside.

"That scum Irwin came to the ring and handed something to Barr," Blair said, "some sort of weapon that he used on me. I don't know what it was, but I do know that it made my head hurt like nothing I've ever felt before. I was smarting for about two weeks!"

The day after the match, Blair filed a protest on the decision with Florida wrestling officials, in addition to a copy of the match videotape. "Blair is hoping that the decision will be reversed," said Barr, "but he hasn't got a prayer. I've got my title back, and the Florida belt is around my waist to stay."

Sgt. Slaughter went home with a check for $100,000 when he won the tag team challenge on the "Star Wars '85" Pro Wrestling U.S.A. card February 24 in New Jersey's Brendan Byrne Meadowlands Arena.

Slaughter, who was supposed to be teamed with **Jerry Blackwell** in the 12-team battle royal, competed alone when Blackwell was unable to wrestle due to an injury the night before. Other combinations in the tag team challenge included (in order of elimination): **Steve Keirn & Jerry Oske**, **Nikita Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev**, **Mark & Jay Youngblood**, **Dory Funk Jr. & Nick Bockwinkel**, **Bob Backlund & Jimmy Valiant**, **Larry Zbyszko & Jim Garvin**, **Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell**, **Mr. Saito & Masked Superstar**, **Jerry Lawler & Baron Von Raschke**, **The Road Warriors**, and **Billy Robinson & Kamala**. Slaughter threw Kamala over the top rope and pinned Robinson to win the match, the money, and a gorgeous "Star Wars '85" trophy.

Rick Martel was disqualified in his match with Gorgeous Jim Garvin, but he still retained his AWA World title.

In other matches on that card, AWA World heavyweight champion **Rick Martel** defended his title against **Gorgeous Jim Garvin**, NWA World heavyweight champion **Ric Flair** defended his title successfully against **Harley Race**, and **The Road Warriors** defended their AWA World tag team belts against **Jerry Lawler** and **Baron Von**

(Continued on page 54)

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Tommy Rich, hoping to regain the NWA World title he held briefly in 1981, applies an abdominal stretch on Ric Flair.

Pittsburgh, PA (*Correspondent*—Mark Pocci): The city of Pittsburgh smoked with action when the two golden boys, Ric Flair and Tommy Rich, squared off for the NWA World championship. With the crowd firmly behind him, Rich attacked Flair and weakened the champ with a sensational display of armdrags and leglocks. "Wildfire" was relentless in his pursuit and had Flair begging for mercy.

Flair, champ that he is, rallied, and in quick succession applied on Rich an abdominal stretch, sleeper, and figure-four leglock. There didn't seem to be much hope for Rich but, in testamony to his spunk, he reversed the figure-four and had Flair writhing in pain. Encouraged by the fans, Rich clamped the sleeperhold on Flair and then flung his head into the steel ringpost drawing blood.

Using his experience, however, Flair lured Rich to the ropes and wrapped him into a small package for the victory.

In other bouts, Ronnie Garvin drew with Tully Blanchard ... Don Kernodle and Manny Fernandez defeated the Koloffs via disqualification ... Magnum T.A. pinned Kareem Muhammad ... Superstar Graham beat Mike Davis ... Dusty Rhodes defeated Joel Deaton ... Dick Slater beat Ted Dalugas.

Waco, TX (*Correspondent*—Bob Miller): The main event featured an exciting loser-leave-town match between Bob Sweetan and Eric Embry fought 16 feet above the ring on a scaffold. A leather strap was placed atop the scaffold and whoever could retrieve it first would enjoy an extreme advantage. The wrestlers were required to stay on the scaffold throughout the match. Several wrestlers surrounded the scaffold in the ring armed with leather straps of their own which they would use to force Sweetan and Embry back up the scaffold if they should attempt to come down. The loser of the match would have to leave Texas for an indeterminate amount of time.

At the bell both men raced up the scaffold after the strap. Sweetan got to it first and lashed Embry several times, raising ugly welts on Embry's back. Maddened, Embry rushed Sweetan and gained control of the strap and used it to open a severe gash on Sweetan's head. Sweetan retaliated by smashing Embry's head into the scaffold, opening cuts up on his head. Embry tried to come down at that point but was met by the straps of Al Madril, Chicky Starr, and Manuel Vialobose, who forced him to scamper back up.

Before his match with Bob Sweetan, a worried Eric Embry looks 16 feet into the air at the scaffold above the ring.

Embry was met by the strap of Sweetan, who now began to dominate the match. He headbutted Embry, knocking him down over the side of the scaffold. As Embry hung by his fingers, Sweetan lashed him violently with the

(Continued on page 60)

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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion

Q: "I remember when Tony Atlas and Junkyard Dog teamed up to form the 'Soul Patrol.' I was wondering, now that they're both in the WWF, if there was a chance of them teaming up again?"—Gina Lund, San Juan Capistrano, CA

A: In fact, Junkyard Dog and Tony Atlas have been tag teaming in the WWF recently, although are unsure whether they will seek the tag team championship. Both men are close personal friends of Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo, the current WWF champs, and it is doubtful whether the WWF promoters would pit the two teams against one another anyway.

***

Q: "My question is for Ric Flair: You have beaten the Von Erichs and Dusty Rhodes and many, many others. Now how about running Wahoo McDaniel out of the Mid-Atlantic? I'd love to see you knock the feathers off of that Indian."—S.E. Rykoff, Damascus, VA

A: "If it were up to me then I'd get right down to business," Flair told us. "Wahoo is a scraggly old creep and I'd love to be the one responsible for putting him out of wrestling. However, the promoters control who I wrestle. If they should put me in the ring with Wahoo, then you can bet the house that I'll take care of him."

Ric Flair runs Wahoo McDaniel into the steel ringpost. The NWA World champion would like to run McDaniel right out of the sport.

***

Q: "I would like to ask Crusher Blackwell how in the world he expects to defeat Kerry Von Erich since all he is is a big can of lard."—Hank Pauls, Waco, TX

A: "Mr. Pauls is obviously another of the legion of uneducated fans that dot certain sections of the country," the giant Blackwell angrily replied. "Not only can I beat up on that skinny little Von Erich but if he gets me mad enough I just might go after his whole family! People forget that I already beat him up in Missouri. I've done it before and I'll do it again."

***

Q: "This is for Billy Haynes: I'm a serious weightlifter who would also one day like to wrestle professionally. My question is how do you remain so big and flexible. I've been offered steroids by some of the guys in the gym but thought I'd wait until I heard from you. I'm definitely one of your biggest fans."—Tony Cinquini, Biloxi, MS

A: "Under no circumstances should anyone take any kind of pill, drug, or shot to help them bulk up or get in shape," Haynes emphatically said. "Being a successful professional wrestler, Tony, is a full-time job. When you're not in the ring you better be in the gym training. I work out every day, doing either heavy lifting or flexibility exercise or cardiovascular conditioning. There's too much riding on every match not to be in peak physical condition. But steroids are ridiculous. They're dangerous and unhealthy besides not being necessary. Sweat and

(Continued on page 52)

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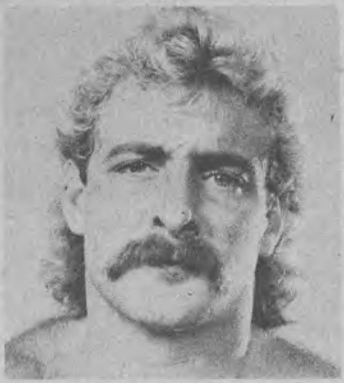
Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

Thumbs Up to Billy Haynes: We were surprised by the fact that we hadn't given a "Thumbs Up" to Billy long before now. His honesty and bravery at changing his name from Billy Jack to Billy Haynes is to be commended. Billy risked losing a lot of support from his fans, and in many ways had to rebuild his reputation from square one. But Billy did what he did on behalf of his ailing father, who wondered why his son wasn't using the name Haynes. Billy's action in this matter is highly admirable.

Thumbs Up to Ronnie Garvin: Since winning the National heavyweight title from Ted DiBiase in Baltimore last October, Garvin has defended the title with honor and dignity against such formidable competitors as Wahoo McDaniel and Bob Roop, and has gone on to challenge Ric Flair for the NWA World heavyweight title. Garvin tends to be a low-key, soft-spoken man, and as a result doesn't get the attention he deserves. But his activities inside the ring prove that he is every bit a champion.



Thumbs Up to Magnum T.A.: This dynamic competitor has been improving at a rapid rate in recent weeks. In many of his matches, Magnum T.A. has been polishing off his opposition in less than two minutes! As we go to press, T.A. has signed a series of open contracts to face U.S. heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel. There's no question that T.A. is ready for McDaniel, and we wouldn't be surprised if we had a new U.S. champion by the time this magazine hits the newsstands!

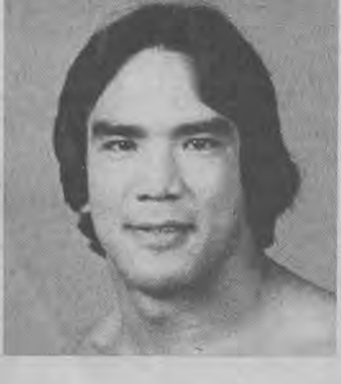
Thumbs Up to Rick Martel: The AWA World heavyweight champion has gone on to redefine the term "sportsmanship" where professional wrestling is concerned. Martel continues to defend his title against al comers, both scientific and rulebreaking. Dino Bravo, Bob Backlund, and Brad Rheingans are all top scientific grapplers, and all have had title matches with Martel. We've said it before and we're saying it again: Martel is setting new standards for title defenses, and he is to be praised for his hard-working efforts in that direction.

Thumbs Down

Thumbs Down to David Shultz: "Dr. D" stands 6'6" and weighs 270 pounds. He is a big, strong, mean professional wrestler. We believe he should have exercised self-control, even when faced with the somewhat taunting questions of ABC investigative reporter John Stossel. Stossel asked Shultz if wrestling was fake, angering Doctor D enough where he hit the reporter with two open-hand slaps, one to each ear, knocking Stossel to the ground twice. Shultz is to be condemned for his actions. It is no excuse that wrestling fans claim that Shultz was merely proving to Stossel that wrestling is a tough, serious business. Professional wrestlers, because of their enormous strength, must exercise self-control when they are among regular citizens.

Thumbs Down to Bob Backlund: We recognize the fact Bob Backlund is one of the finest competitors in the sport today. We recognize the fact that Backlund possesses one of the most formidable scientific wrestling arsenals in the world today. But the former WWF heavyweight champion continues to whine about the fact that he *still* should be recognized as a champion. We would prefer to see wrestling take the place of whining. The only way for a man to prove he's a champion is not to continue to claim so on television, it's to prove it inside that squared circle.

Thumbs Down to Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie: This notorious AWA manager continues to expand a stable of wrestlers who could best be characterized by the term "mercenary." His most recent acquisition, King Tonga, is being trained in the art of sadism and cruelty not only by Al-Kaissie, but by other members of the stable including Mr. Saito and Masked Superstar. We find Al-Kaissie's efforts to destroy fine wrestlers such as Greg Gagne (who just recovered from a leg injury due to Al-Kaissie), Jim Brunzell, and Sgt. Slaughter, thoroughly and utterly reprehensible.



Thumbs Down to Rick Steamboat: In *The Wrestler* and in our sister publications, we have often singled out Rick Steamboat as a man on a treadmill, a man who would like to challenge for the NWA World heavyweight title, who has in fact wrestled champion Ric Flair several times for the belt, but has ultimately failed in his quest for the title. We hope that Steamboat's reason for leaving the NWA is not discouragement. Steamboat has recently decided to compete in the WWF, and it is likely that Steamboat will not receive a shot at WWF heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan. We would not like to see Steamboat's chances for a major singles title eliminated.

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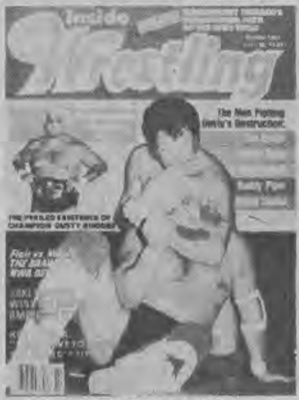

OCTOBER 1981

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.
August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.
September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.
November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.
June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.
August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.
September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.
January 1976/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Ladd, Putski.
February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.
March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.
April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.
June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.
August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.
September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.
October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.
November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.
December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.
January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.
February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.
May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.
August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.
September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.
October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.
November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.
December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.
February 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Koloff, Johnson.
March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.
April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.
May 1978/Stories include: Race, Putski, Von Erich, Andre.
August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.
October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.
November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.
December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.
January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.
February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.
April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.
June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

DECEMBER 1984

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.
August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.
September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.
October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.
November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.
February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.
March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.
April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.
May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
October 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Patera, Muraco, Roberts.
November 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Andre, Snuka.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.
February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

INSIDE WRESTLING

☐ JULY 74	☐ SEPT 77	☐ NOV 79	☐ APR 82	☐ FEB 84
☐ AUG 74	☐ OCT 77	☐ FEB 80	☐ MAY 82	☐ MAR 84
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☐ AUG 77	☐ OCT 79	☐ MAR 82	☐ JAN 84	

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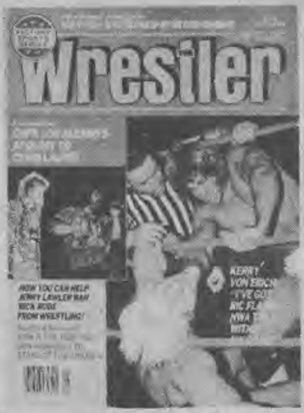

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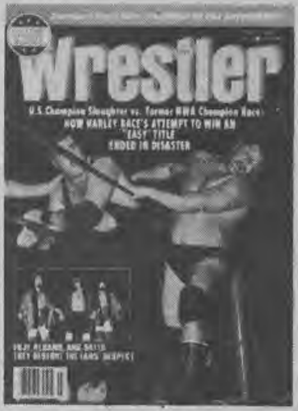

MARCH 1982

February 1975/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Brisco, Sheik.

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

July 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Sammartino, Race, Rhodes.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

March 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Putski, Lawler.

June 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Putski, Patera, Bruiser.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

March 1978/Stories include: Graham, Flair, Rich, Patera.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

March 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, Rhodes, Maivia.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Graham, Piper, Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

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August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

February 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Hogan, Rich, Andre.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

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INTRODUCING JOHN NORD

IN HIS PROFESSIONAL wrestling debut, John Nord was disqualified for tossing Gorgeous Jim Garvin, the number one contender for the AWA heavyweight championship, over the top rope.

Fans at ringside claim that Nord tossed Garvin out of the ring the way a baker throws out day-old bread, meaning he did so without much effort or regret. That Jim Garvin weighs 240 pounds while John Nord scales almost 300 pounds might account for the ease with which Nord accomplished his deed. Whatever the reason, you can rest assured that Jim Garvin will think twice before he steps into the ring with John Nord again.

The 6'6'' John Nord is ready to make a *big* impact in professional wrestling. The 25-year-old out of Bozeman, Montana, is the stuff that promoters' dreams are made of. Strong and good looking? Nord won the Mr. Teen America contest in 1977 at the tender age of 17. Athletic ability? Nord played football at Montana State *and* played for a year with the New Jersey Generals, blocking for Herschel Walker. Exciting? Nord, wrestling professionally now for all of five months, is already looking toward a title shot.

The soft-spoken giant had an unusual introduction to the world of wrestling. Nord injured a knee during the Generals' '82-'83 campaign and spent the off-season in rehabilitation and traveling the infamous athletic cocktail circuit, attending testimonial dinners, charity functions, and award ceremonies.

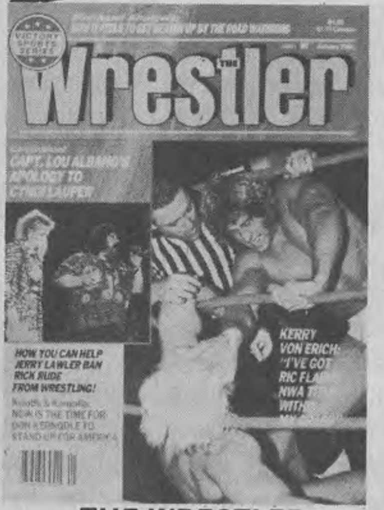
It was on that circuit that Nord met Brad Rheingans, professional wrestler and instructor at one of Verne Gagne's wrestling training camps. Rheingans and Nord became fast friends and Rheingans invited Nord up to the camp to help in his rehabilitation. Out of such casual circumstances are legends created. After two months in camp, Nord hung up his cleats for a pair of wrestling boots. He explains:

"After my injury, I had time to do a little thinking. The average career span of an offensive lineman is four years and here I was with a shredded knee, a contract that wasn't guaranteed, and a fu-

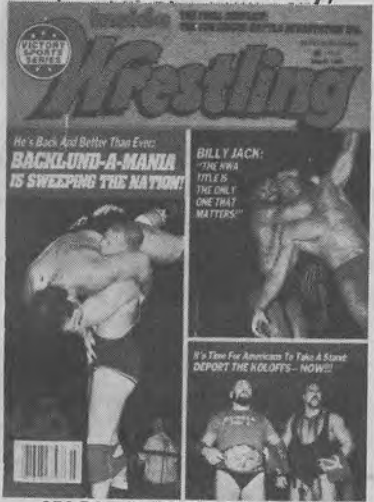
(Continued on page 20)

John Nord calls a serious knee injury he suffered playing football the luckiest break of his life. That's because it led to his career in professional wrestling. Standing 6'6", weighing 300 pounds, and exuding boundless intensity, Nord's potential is limitless

WRESTLING'S GREATEST SUBSCRIPTION DEAL



THE WRESTLER (Published Monthly)



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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

Jake Millmum looks up into the air and sees 6'6" and 300 pounds of John Nord coming down on him (above left). With the greatest of ease, Nord puts Millmum in a backbreaker (above right). Big John turns Millmum horizontal with a clothesline (below).

ture about as secure as a sandcastle during high tide.

"When I went up to camp with Brad I didn't have any intentions of making a career out of wrestling, it just seemed like a more enjoyable way to rehabilitate. And I was right. I had a heckuva time up there. After years of going through boring football training camps, this was a lot of fun.

"Now don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that wrestling is a stroll through the park. Never in my life have I been tossed around, twisted, and beaten up like I was in the year I spent at camp. It's just that it's way different from the beating you take in football. You're in control in the ring. In football you can get hit by one of 11 people at any time and from any angle. I like the feeling of being in control."

Not surprisingly, under Brad Rheingans' guidance, Nord made incredible progress at camp. It wasn't long before he caught the ever watchful eye of Verne Gagne himself.

"Verne came up to me about three months into camp and asked me if I'm a football player or a wrestler. The decision wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. I mean I've been playing football since I've been knee high to a sheep dog, and yet when it was time to lay down the cards they all read wrestling."

Make no mistake about it: John Nord is not only big, John Nord is *good.* According to Rheingans and Gagne, Nord's commitment was unlike anything they'd ever seen before. His tenacity made most of the other wrestlers up at camp seem lazy by comparison. Nord welcomes such compliments, anxious to confer the credit to where it belongs.

"I learned about discipline from the master," Nord says, his voice brimming with respect and admiration. "Herschel Walker is the most dedicated athlete—the most dedicated *person* I've ever met. Everything he does he does full speed. Whether it's running around left end, running the 100 meters, writing poetry, or cooking dinner, Herschel gives it his all.

"Obviously it's paid off for him. He's the most versatile athlete in all of sports. He always had a word of encouragement for me, always had the time for instruction—and I'll always remember that. There's someone making close to $2 million a year and he's still just a regular guy. I learned a lot from Herschel, both on and off the field. He's a good friend."

Nord's current plans include a stop in the Mid-South area, where he's anxious to get a shot at Ted DiBiase's North American title. Although the rule of thumb for a rookie is to work his way gradually up the ranks, Nord sees no reason to. He feels he's ready for the big time, and from the looks of things, we're inclined to agree with him. □

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Q&A

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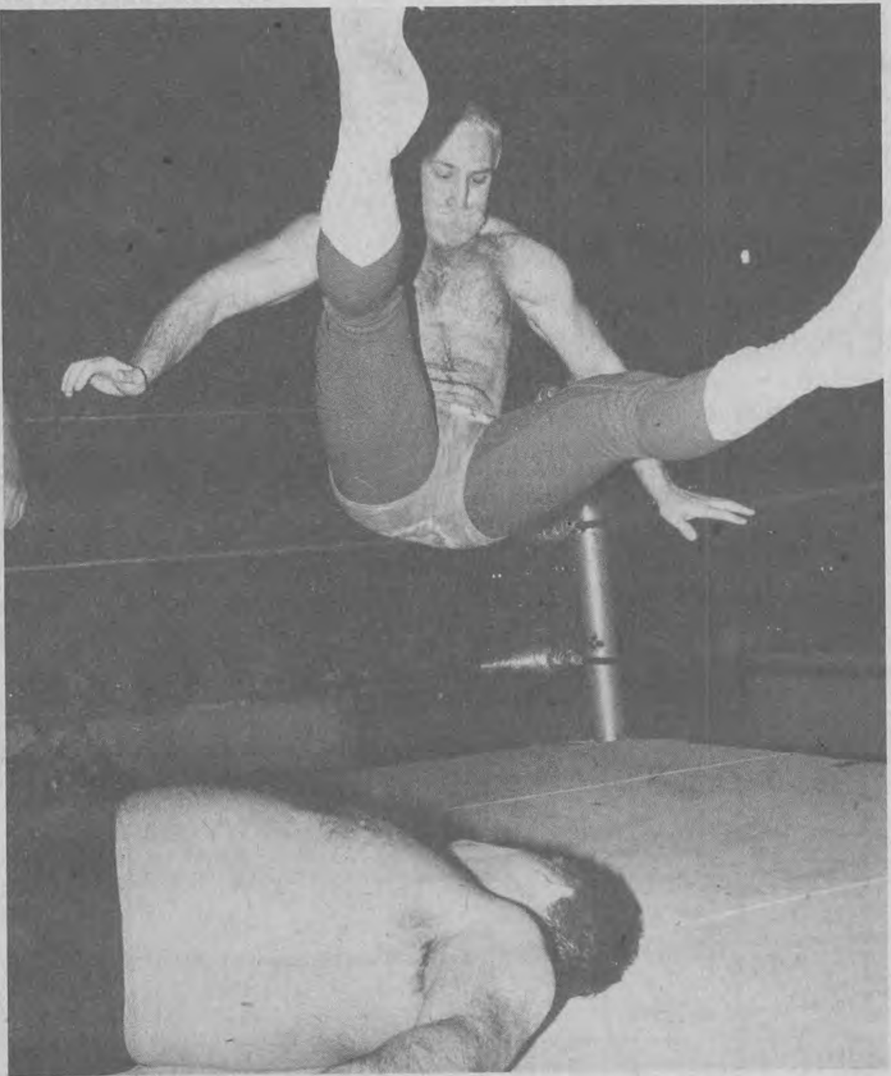
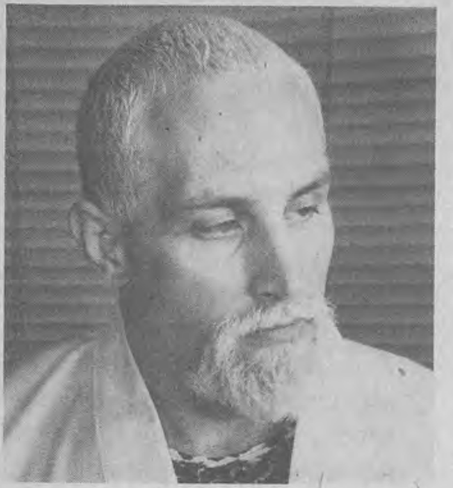


Q: It's been some time since the results were in, but I'd like to congratulate you on your Manager of the Year award.

A: Let me simply say, with all the humility appropriate to this particular situation, that I am thoroughly and unequivocally deserving of that award.

Q: Of course. In the May 1985 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Bill Apter and I interviewed The Road Warriors, and I want to ask you the same question I asked them: Where do you go from here? What else is there for The Legion of Doom to accomplish?

A: I can answer that in a multiplicity of ways, but let me say this: The past has been a direct path to unmatched success, and the future lies wide open for the taking. What is left to accomplish is whatever I determine that we want to accomplish. If I decide that The Road Warriors are going to win the NWA World tag team title, then they will win the NWA World tag team title. If I decide that The Road Warriors want to cripple . . . *hmmmm,* let's see, who deserves to be crippled the most? How about Sgt. Slaughter! *Hahaha!* Yes indeed, Sgt. Slaughter. If I decide that Hawk and Animal ought to cripple Sgt. Slaughter, then you can be certain that before long the man who calls himself the leader of the Cobra Corps will in fact be



PAUL ELLERING

SUCCESS IS ONE aspect of life that is quite familiar to Precious Paul Ellering. As leader of The Legion of Doom and manager of The Road Warriors, Ellering heads one of the most powerful triumverates in professional wrestling: Hawk and Animal were voted Tag Team of the Year and Ellering himself was voted Manager of the Year in the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* 1984 year-end fan poll. When Ellering shows up at ringside for the Warriors' matches wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the words, "Who's Gonna Beat Us?", the question is merely rhetorical. There are few teams anywhere in wrestling powerful enough to defeat Hawk and Animal, and still fewer managerial figures in the sport able to be considered equal to Ellering in any respect. Associate Editor Craig Peters recently spoke with Ellering in New York City at one of his several nationwide offices.

transformed into a Cobra Corpse! *Hahaha!*

Q: But what are your plans for the immediate future?

A: In the immediate future, I plan to consolodate some of The Legion of Doom's financial holdings, while at the same time expand the fiscal base upon which we operate.

Q: No, I mean for Hawk and Animal.

A: Well, you asked them that question, aren't you satisfied with the answer that they gave you?

Q: During that interview, when I asked them what's next for them, they told me that they were going to be breaking bones, breaking heads, and beating up people . . .

A: And that's exactly what they're going to be doing!

Q: In a lot of people's view, The Road Warriors have been the most incredible success story that professional wrestling has ever seen . . .

A: Not so incredible if you possess my caliber of intellect.

Q: . . . and I find it interesting that for a team that has made a career out of beating up fan favorites, The Road Warriors seem to be cheered in many arenas in which they wrestle. Why do you think that is so?

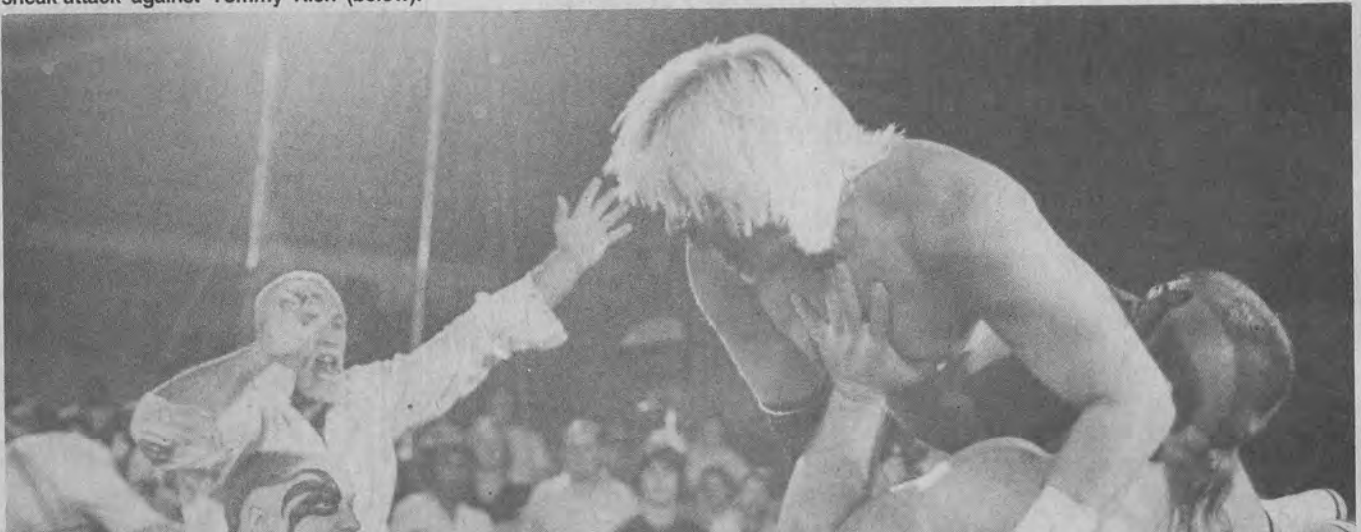
A: It's quite simple. If anyone is going to be honest with himself, he's going to admit that he prefers to be successful before he prefers to be honorable. And the Warriors make no pretensions toward being honor-

Precious Paul Ellering looks on from ringside as Road Warrior Animal executes a devastating elbowsmash against Curt Hennig (above). Ellering, performing a legdrive against Bulldog Bob Brown (opposite page), feels it helps him as a manager to get into the ring from time to time.

able in the ring; they simply destroy. And they are successful at destruction, more so than any other tag team in the sport. Look at the physiques these two men possess. Animal can press a man above his head not once, but half a dozen times if he so desires, and Hawk is increasing upon an already formidable repertoire of aerial maneuvers. The Warriors are not only awesome, they continue to improve. And just as they have no pretensions toward honor, they have no pretensions toward the fans. They're not like these simpering fools such as Sgt. Slaughter or Greg Gagne or Tommy Rich or Ole Anderson who mortgage their souls for a few measly cheers. Hawk and Animal couldn't care less about the fans, or about their opponents. They like to destroy, and they're honest about that. And the fans recognize that honesty. Let them cheer. Or let them boo. Frankly, we don't give a damn either way. We're successful at what we do, and we're going to continue to be more so in the months and years to come.

Q: On occasion you wrestle with Hawk and Animal in six-man

Hawk slams a chair over the head of Sheepherder "Crazy" Luke Williams, as Animal and Ellering look on (above). Ellering looks like an orchestra leader as he directs the Warriors' sneak-attack against Tommy Rich (below).



matches.

A: Yes I do.

Q: Do you find it difficult to wrestle and manage simultaneously?

A: Not at all. In fact, I find that my activities in the ring improve my state of mind outside the ring. If I am to be an effective manager, I have to have a firsthand knowledge of what happens inside that ring. Too many people like yourself tend to forget that I am a highly accomplished athlete in my own right. I held the national weightlifting championship at one time, the NCAA weightlifting championship, and a world record in the dead lift of 745.3 pounds. I was Mid-Southern heavyweight champion and Mid-Southern tag team champion. My occasional forays into the ring simply keep my considerable skills as sharp as they always have been. And in keeping my skills sharp, and facing a variety of opponents inside that ring, I have a keener understanding of the level of competition that Hawk and Animal must face. And I must say, that level of competition is in a sorry state, indeed.

Q: Which team in the sport do you feel is capable of giving Hawk and Animal the greatest challenge?

A: Well, I could say that the team able to match the Warriors evenly hasn't been formed yet. And, in fact, that would be true. But there is another question inplicit in the one you asked that you are missing.

Q: What is that?

A: Why not ask me which team in wrestling can *defeat* my Road Warriors?

Q: All right . . . consider the question asked.

A: You know which team can defeat Hawk and Animal?

Q: No, which team?

A: The team I have yet to obtain the contract of! *Hahaha!* Now get out of here, I have important business to conduct. I can't waste my entire day on frivolities such as interviews. □

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THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

KAMALA THE GIANT

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal

Kamala the Ugandan Giant doesn't know the first thing about wrestling. If he could speak English, he'd probably be the first one to admit it. But using his hands and feet and considerable bulk, he has become one of the most feared competitors in the sport today.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO
"Kamala is a crazy, crazy man. In all my years in the sport I've never met anyone like him. Obviously, given his immense size and strength he's a formidable opponent for anyone, but is he a threat for a title? I don't think so. I don't think Kamala is at all concerned with a belt. His pleasure is in beating people up, and from what I've seen he can do that very well."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.

TERRY FUNK
"Kamala? That guy is a nut job. I've seen him walk into a ring and fight three guys at once and make guacamole out of all three! If someone could communicate some sense and strategy into that monster, I don't think anyone could beat him. I wouldn't want to climb into the ring with that gorilla. Just looking into that sick mug of his is enough to make you submit."

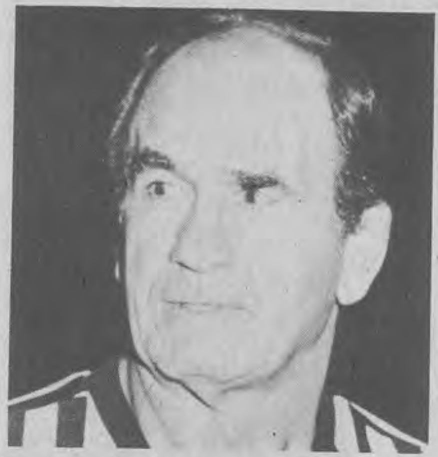
Terry Funk has held the NWA World championship, the Missouri State title, and a number of other regional titles.

GENE KINISKI
"Y'know, even though this Kamala character is empty in his attic, I still like him. You gotta be a little wacky to get out in that ring and Kamala certainly fills that bill. I like a man who can dole out punishment indiscriminately. To Kamala, every opponent is an enemy and I admire that attitude. He might never be a champion, but he'll sure cause a lot of damage before he retires."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.

BUDDY ROGERS
"A thing like Kamala has no place in the world of professional wrestling. He offers absolutely nothing to the sport. His only desire is hurt and maim other wrestlers who are trying to make an honest living and support their families. He has no ring skills, hasn't any knowledge of wrestling moves, and discredits our sport. He should take his 360 pounds and move back to the jungles where he'd fit in much better."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title.



LOU THESZ
"C'mon! Kamala should be put in a straitjacket and sent airmail back to his country. Rulebreakers are an inevitable part of this sport, but Kamala goes beyond mere rulebreaking. He represents a real threat to life and limb. One gets the feeling that the more pain he dishes out the happier he is. Winning and losing are alien concepts to him and that's dangerous."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.

VERNE GAGNE
"Kamala is big, strong, and insane, and those qualities make for exciting matches. He's a natural target for many wrestlers trying to make a reputation. As a former wrestler, though, I have nothing but contempt for Kamala. He's not a wrestler, he's a monster, who should be beaten up the way that he's beaten up on people his whole career."

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years by the wrestling media.

The Wrestler

SPOTLIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

HULK HOGAN

After playing "Thunderlips" in *Rocky III*, Hulk Hogan made an appearance on *The Tonight Show With Johnny Carson.* Also on the show was actress/model Brooke Sheilds.

WHEN HULK HOGAN defeated The Iron Sheik for the WWF heavyweight title on January 23, 1984, in New York's Madison Square Garden, a new era in WWF wrestling was born.

It's the era of Hulk-a-mania, an era of the rock and wrestling connection, an era where the man with the 24-inch pythons reigns supreme.

Hulk Hogan is a man who has transcended professional wrestling. With a major role in Rocky III, *Hogan was off on a significant Hollywood career. After* Rocky III *was released, Hogan appeared on* The Tonight Show With Johnny Carson.

In recent months, Hogan seems to have become a fixture on the MTV scene. He was a guest veejay last September, and his recent "War To Settle The Score" against "Rowdy" Roddy Piper was broadcast live on MTV from Madison Square Garden.

But when all the trappings of stardom are stripped away, it is professional wrestling that is at the core of Hulk Hogan's life, and that is the reason for his incredible success. In this special Wrestler *feature, we take a close look and salute that wrestling excellence that is, above all, an integral part of the incredible Hulk Hogan.*

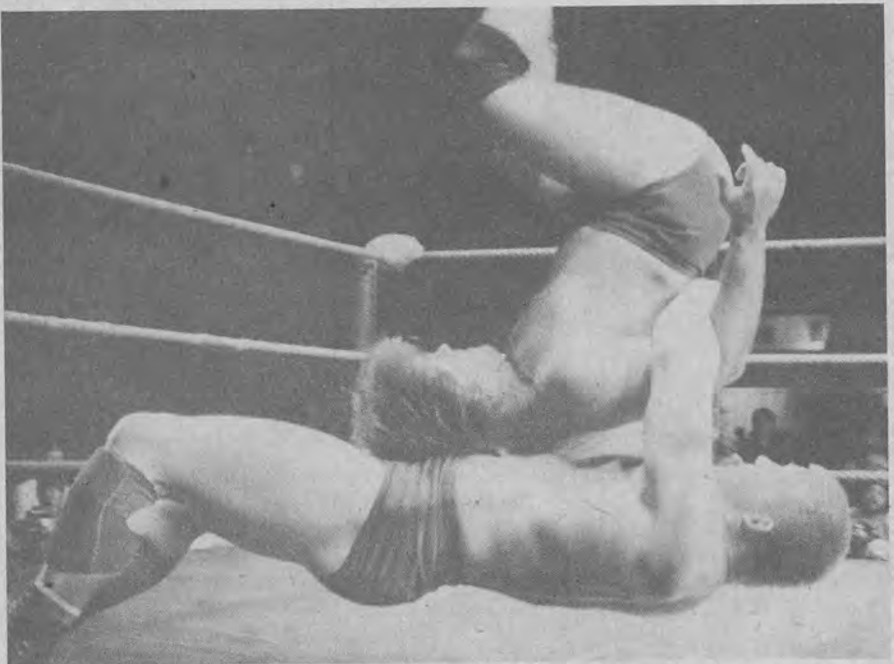
As a rulebreaker during his first WWF stay, Hogan battles Andre the Giant, as Gorilla Monsoon officiates (left). The Hulk locks up Sgt. Slaughter's arm during a match in Japan (below).

After being attacked before the bell by The Iron Sheik, Hogan battles back (above). The Hulkster aims his elbow at a fallen Cowboy Bob Orton (left). The 6'8" Hogan and the 7'5" Andre the Giant make a sandwich of Ken Patera (below).

LARRY ZBYSZKO:

"I'LL SHOW BOB BACKLUND HOW A REAL CHAMPION WRESTLES!"

Their story goes back years. Former friends and hated foes, Bob Backlund and Larry Zybszko once again find themselves battling over a major title. Before, their confrontations ended in savage cruelty. When this chapter of their war is over, will it be written as tragedy?



Showing the skills that kept him atop the WWF for almost six years, Backlund takes Zbyszko to the mat. Zbyszko's resentment toward Backlund goes all the way back to 1978, when Backlund defeated Superstar Graham for the WWF title.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, two young athletes faced each other across the expanse of a wrestling ring. One was the WWF heavyweight champion at the height of his success and popularity. The other was a man recently cast adrift, alienated from his mentor and the fans who once loved him. When the match was over, the champion had once again triumphed. The challenger left the ring an enraged and bitter man. He would soon leave the WWF and travel the world, earning a reputation for ruthlessness and ambition second to none.

The champion was Bob Backlund. The challenger was Larry Zbyszko. Much would happen to the two young athletes between that match and today. Backlund would eventually lose his title and for about six months lose his bearings. Bob would then return to wrestling as a challenger to both the AWA and NWA World titles. He would also become an opponent pursued by many looking to gain a reputation for beating the ex-WWF champion. Bob further had to wrestle former challengers to his title who were now looking to exact revenge for past beatings. As Bob says with a rueful smile, "I can't complain that being an ex-champ is dull."

Zbyszko's recent past has been tempestuous and brutal. After his notorious feud with his former mentor, Bruno Sammartino, Zbyszko seemed to take on the entire wrestling establishment. Friend to no one, savage in his attacks on fan favorites, Zbyszko lusted only for victory. Eventually, he would become Americas champion, a new title that was hoped would be

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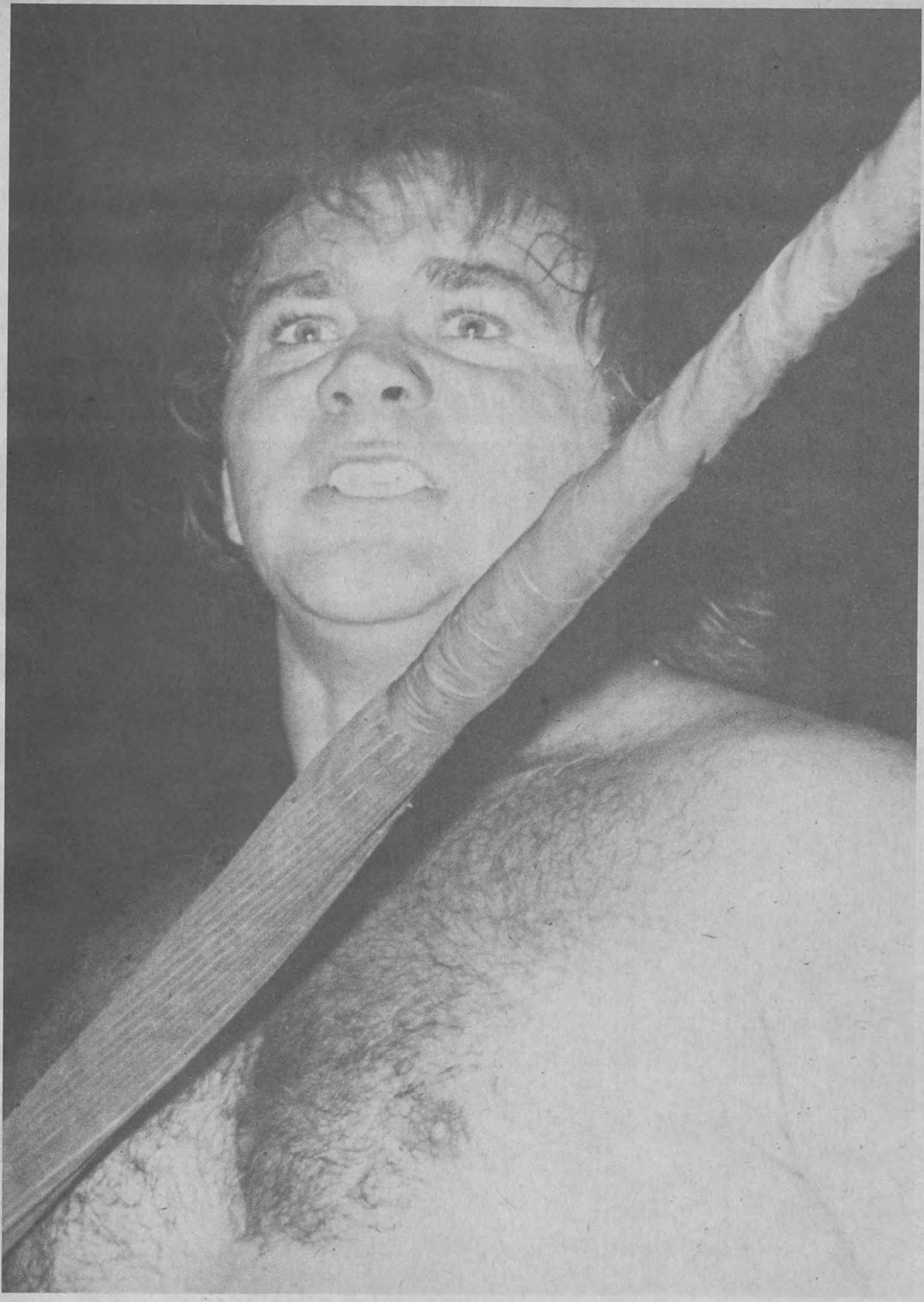
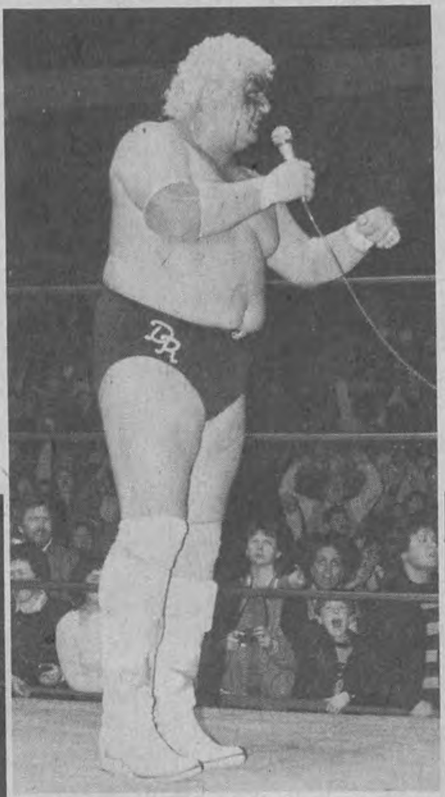


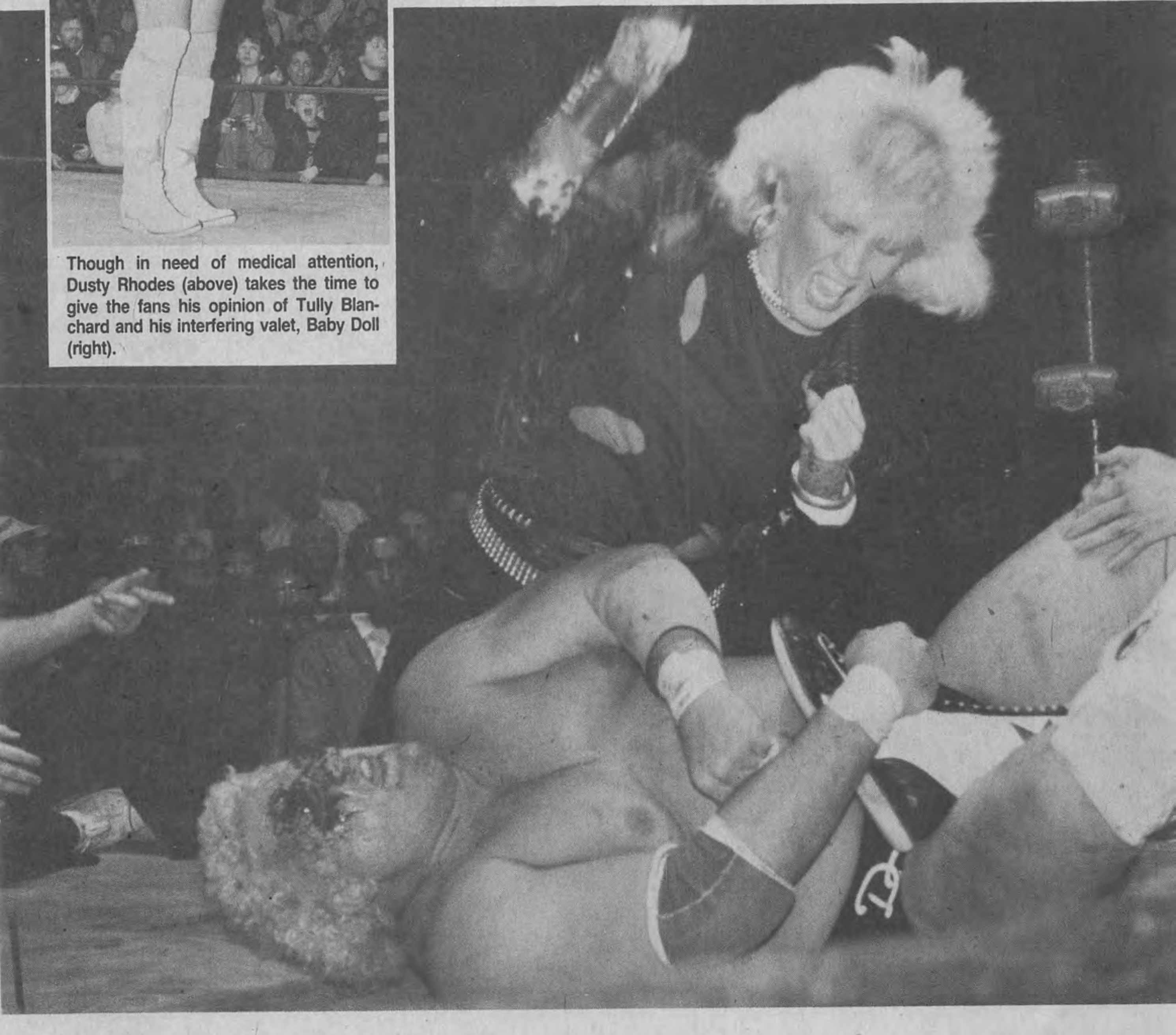
Photos by Bill Apter

Slam That Sucker Down Tour!



Though in need of medical attention, Dusty Rhodes (above) takes the time to give the fans his opinion of Tully Blanchard and his interfering valet, Baby Doll (right).

NEXT ON DUSTY RHODES' HIT LIST: TULLY BLANCHARD



In 1984, Dusty Rhodes took care of business on his "TCB Tour '84." But it's 1985 now, and a new year calls for a new tour. Dusty's calling this his "Slam That Sucker Down Tour '85," and already wrestlers in Florida and the Mid-Atlantic have felt his wrath. Next in line for punishment courtesy of "The American Dream": Tully Blanchard

DUSTY RHODES STOOD in the center of the ring, blood streaming down his face from a large gash opened over his right eye, and screamed to the fans in general—and to Tully Blanchard in particular.

"Listen up everyone, The American Dream here is not gonna stand for any more of this garbage from this kind of scum, you hear me talking? Tully Blanchard, your time has come. It's time to pay for what you been doing all around this here Mid-Atlantic area, daddy!"

Despite the blood pouring into his eyes and the brutality of the match just past, Rhodes was speaking with the energy and passion of a man possessed.

"This is it, jack, 'The American Dream' is gonna collect some dues, daddy, and the first withdrawal is gonna come right from the scaly hide of one Mr. Tully Blanchard!"

Only minutes earlier, Rhodes had been involved in a most brutal match with Blanchard. The fans had come to see Rhodes dish out some punishment to Tully, who has earned the name "Superbrat" several times over.

These fans gained a new measure of respect for Blanchard when they saw how quickly he capitalized on his advantages in the match, how efficiently he waged his attacks on The American Dream, and how brutally he wrestled.

"You know, Tully Blanchard, your game has been played here in the Mid-Atlantic for too long, and it's time for that game to come to an end. This here's 1985, and my 'Slam That Sucker Down Tour' is moving along and going strong. I'm feeling sweet, and you're gonna feel the heat. Got it, brother? Not only you, Blanchard, but that bleached-blonde bimbo you call Baby Doll is gonna pay, too!"

While Blanchard was able to maintain an advantage over Rhodes for a portion of their match, carrying that advantage to a pinfall or a submission over The American Dream is no simple task. And while Rhodes was certainly battered and beaten by the "Superbrat," he was nevertheless able to fight back and capture Blanchard in the figure-four leglock.

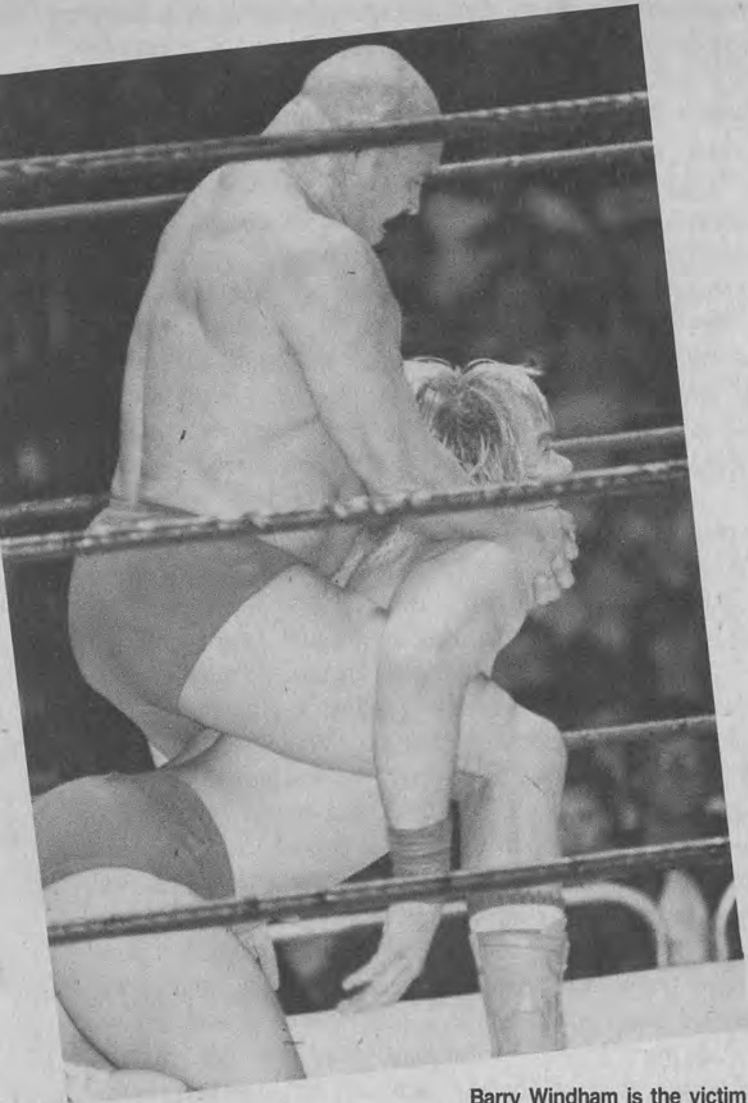
Rhodes' figure-four leglock is legendary. Few men are able to battle back against Dusty's enormously powerful legs and break the hold; fewer still have been able to reverse it.

Blanchard relied not on his own power, however, but on the interference of Baby Doll, his valet, in order

(Continued on page 62)

Referee Tommy Young issues a stern warning to Tully Blanchard, who pounds Rhodes into a bloody pulp. Dusty might have been caught off-guard in this match, but the two will meet again!

Photos by Floyd See



Barry Windham is the victim of The Iron Sheik's camel clutch (above left) and a Nikolai Volkoff chokehold (above right).

ARE WWF RULEBREAKERS SINGLING OUT BARRY WINDHAM FOR DESTRUCTION?

IT HAS HAPPENED several times before in wrestling. There's no official announcement, no organized plan. Nobody can tell you when it began or who made the decision. Yet its force is as unstoppable as any force of nature, and it is just as ruthless until it runs its course. Usually, in its wake lies tragedy.

It is happening again. A single man has been targeted for destruction by a group of wrestlers. He is not the most feared or even the most hated man in the sport, yet he represents something that demands that this dreaded group

He's young, popular, co-holder of the WWF tag team title—and only getting better. Yet Barry Windham now faces the gravest challenge of his career, a challenge no man would want and few could dare hope to survive. The most savage athletes in the world are intent on destroying him!

Photos by David Fitzgerald

better than to see Albano unable to find wrestlers to manage. If the risk of becoming a target comes with an Albano contract, no one will be foolish enough to sign with the Captain. If Albano can't protect Windham, he'll be finished as a manager.

That doesn't answer the question as to why Windham and not Rotundo is the target. Some experts believe that prevailing wisdom among rulebreakers has it that Windham is the backbone of the team. If something happened to Rotundo, Albano could find a suitable replacement. If Windham was permanently injured, the team would be destroyed. Many experts, including Albano, think the rulebreakers are wrong; they are severely underestimating Rotundo's contributions. Yet in matters like this, the facts are aften irrelevant. People operate on perceptions, true or false, and the perception is that Windham is the strength of the tag team.

Windham has a tremendous amount of talent and even more guts. He will back down to no one. Barry topples the giant Volkoff with a flying bodypress (above). Volkoff bounces Windham off the ropes and will greet him with his big boot (right).

of grapplers mark him for destruction.

The group is the rulebreakers of the WWF. The man they wish to eradicate is Barry Windham.

That the group is concentrating on Windham is undeniable. Recent matches prove that. Suddenly, Barry has been forced to defend himself against some of the most cruelly unscrupulous tactics ever witnessed. Against men like Nikolai Volkoff, Iron Sheik, Dick Murdoch and Adrian Adonis, Windham has been fortunate to leave the ring without permanent injury. How much longer can he be lucky? Barry's foes claim his time is running out. Barry's friends are afraid to guess how much longer he can survive this assault. All agree he's used up a lot of luck so far.

Why has Windham been chosen? There are several reasons, some obvious and some that can only be discovered by plumbing the depths of his enemies' minds. Most obviously, destroying Windham is a way at getting back at Capt. Lou Albano, manager of Windham and Mike Rotundo, current WWF tag team champions. Albano was formerly one of the most hated rulebreakers in professional wrestling history. When circumstance changed him into a fan favorite, he made enemies amongst his former friends, men who usually reward betrayal by savage retribution. Albano's enemies know how proud managing fan favorite tag team champions makes Lou. If they can destroy the team, they can do more to hurt Lou than could be inflicted by any amount of physical punishment.

The destruction of Windham would also be a warning to other fan favorites not to be connected with Albano. WWF rulebreakers would like nothing

Yet this may be a misperception the rulebreakers want to believe. They're looking for an excuse to despise Windham. Certainly Barry is everything a rulebreaker is not. The union between Barry and the fans is something special, something a rulebreaker can only

(Continued on page 64)

SHOULD TOMMY RICH TURN BAD AGAIN?

IN TIMES OF great distress, it has been natural for Tommy Rich to turn to the fans for guidance. The special relationship between this athlete and his followers has made it possible for Tommy to time and again place his career in their hands. No one has greater faith in the fans' wisdom than does Tommy and that faith has been rewarded constantly.

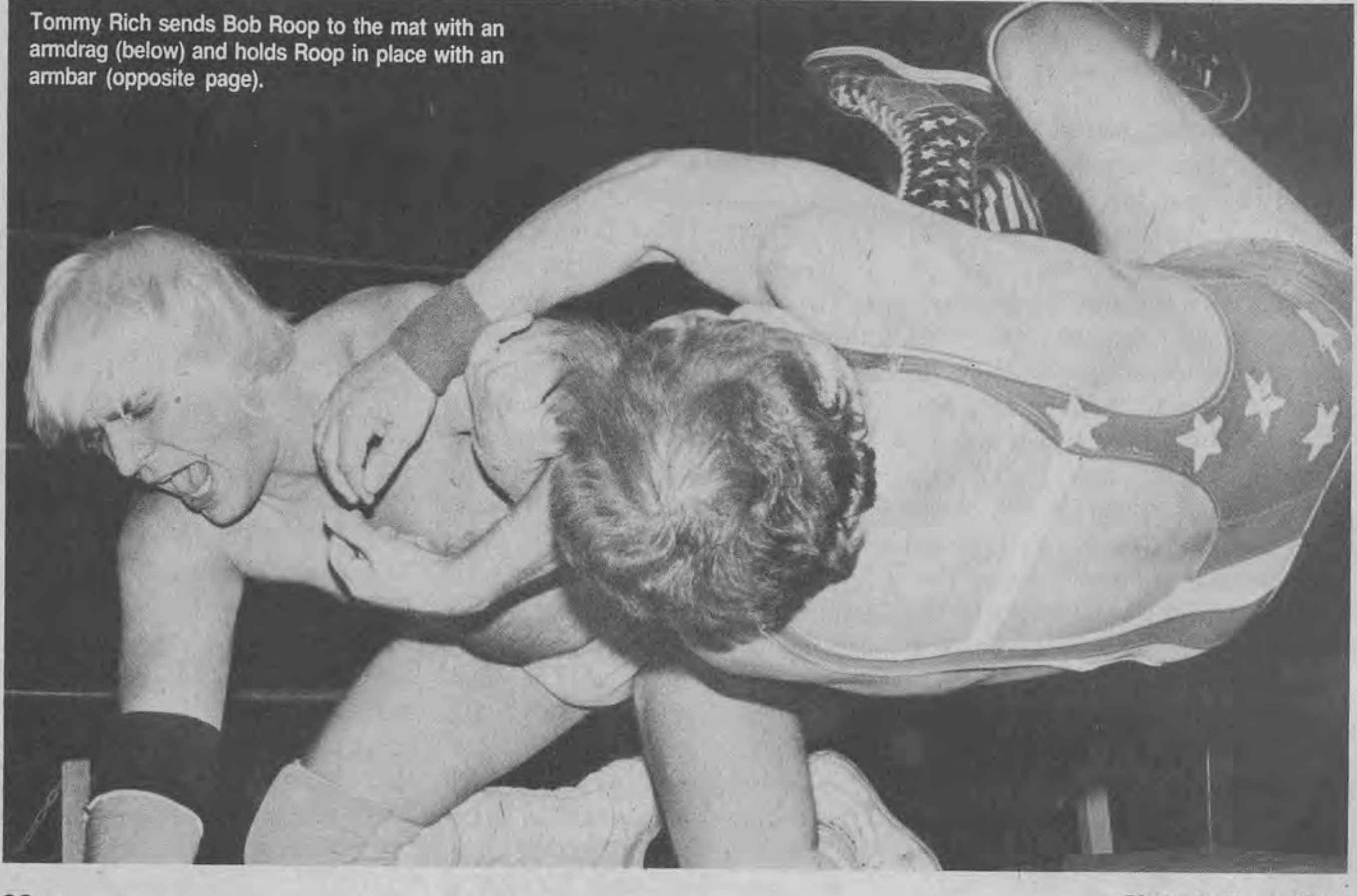
Now Tommy has to face what may be the crossroads of his career. Once he embarks on the path he is contemplating there is no turning back. He doesn't want to take that path; in a just world he wouldn't be faced with the choice. Yet his career demands a violent change, at least according to several of his friends. They are telling Tommy Rich, one of the most respected men in professional sport, that he should become a rulebreaker.

At first glance, the suggestion seems ludicrous. Several years ago, Tommy flirted with the rulebreaker's life. He was not very good at it because he hated it so much. Those who remained his friend during that time tell of a young man confused, bitter, and woefully unhappy. The anguish he suffered during those months marked him for life. There was no happier man in the world than Tommy on the day he decided to once again become a fan favorite. It allowed him to once again be proud of himself.

In professional wrestling, pride has a high price. By sticking to the rules and his sense of what an athlete should be, Tommy has had to sacrifice important victories. He has also been shut out of matches that could have furthered his career. Men with less ability have gotten a chance at matches many felt rightfully belonged to Tommy. As Terry Taylor has said, "This isn't the best time in the world to be a fan favorite. We're in the era of the rulebreaker. If you don't believe me, look at the ratings."

You can't argue with Taylor there. According to the ratings, most of the top challengers are rulebreakers. And according to recent cards, most of the men getting heavyweight champion title shots are rulebreakers. No, it's not the best of times to be a fan favorite.

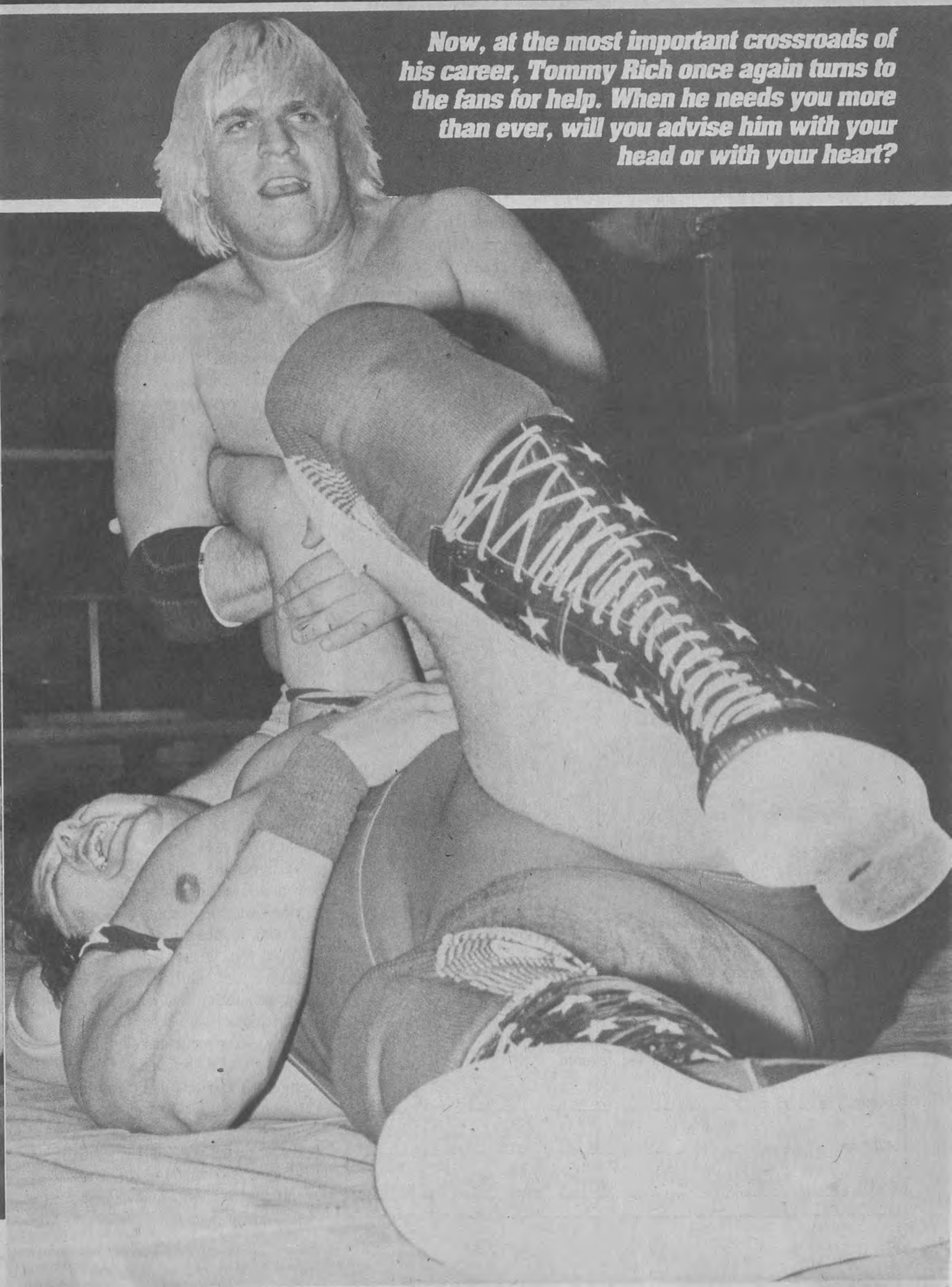
For Tommy, the situation is particularly galling. His career is seemingly on a treadmill; he busts his back to simply



Tommy Rich sends Bob Roop to the mat with an armdrag (below) and holds Roop in place with an armbar (opposite page).

Photos by Emmy Yates

Now, at the most important crossroads of his career, Tommy Rich once again turns to the fans for help. When he needs you more than ever, will you advise him with your head or with your heart?



stay in one place. A man of his accomplishments and popularity deserves more. It's a mistake for fans to underestimate Tommy's ambition. If he can't achieve the goals he seeks, he may be forced to quit the sport in disgust.

And then there is the other option: turn rulebreaker. It would be a difficult transition for Tommy. It should also be remembered that Tommy was not a great rulebreaker the last time he tried it; the man's natural sensibilities rebelled against betraying the sport's dignity. Those who think Tommy should become a rulebreaker argue that history is irrelevant now. Tommy is older, wiser, and much hungrier. If he becomes a rulebreaker, he will be a very good one, his friends contend. More important, it might save his career.

When the choice had been put before Tommy recently, he asked, "What's the good of saving my career if I lose the man? I couldn't turn against the fans again. After they forgave me for becoming a rulebreaker the last time, I swore I would never do anything to betray them. If I would become a rulebreaker, and I'm not saying that's what I want, it would have to be at the demand of the fans."

So, readers, the decision is now yours. Tommy admits to being at a loss as to what he should do with the rest of his career. He is turning to the fans for help. Should he become a rulebreaker if it means more title shots and perhaps a long championship reign? Or should he continue to wrestle within the rules and hope to survive in a sport where the rules become more meaningless every day?

Roop grabs Rich by the hair and attempts to throw him from the ring (left). Tommy is choked by Roop (above). Are those the tactics "Wildfire" should be using?

Mail ballot to: **Tommy's Choice/*The Wrestler***
Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York 11571

( ) Tommy Rich should become a rulebreaker
( ) Tommy Rich should remain a fan favorite

Name: ______________________ Age: ______

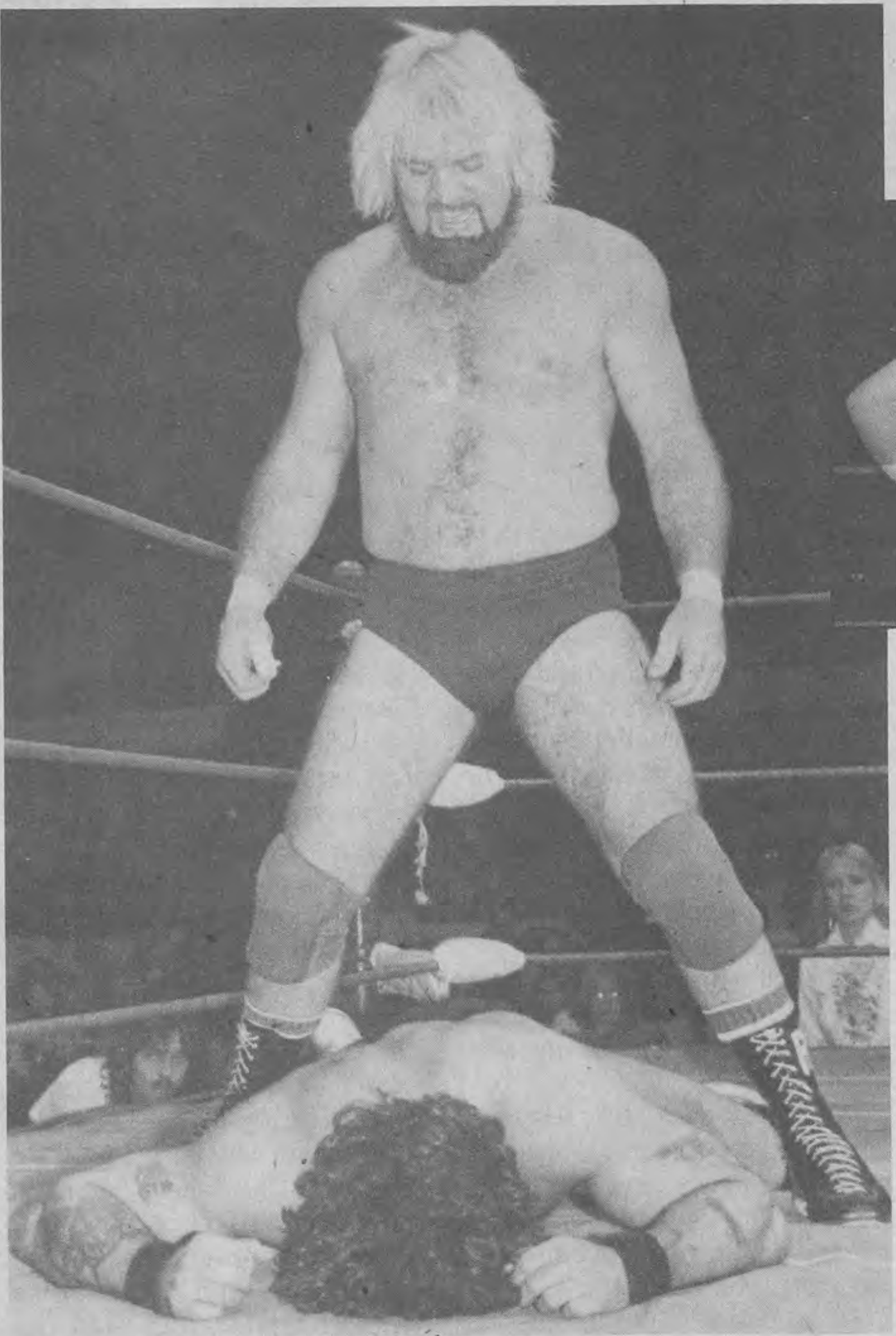
Address: ______________________

City: ______________ State: ______ Zip: ______

Whatever the decision of the fans, Tommy will abide by it. When asked if he hopes the fans will decide one way or the other, Tommy responded, "I don't want to become a rulebreaker. I think deep down no one wants to be one. Yet if the fans think that would be best for me, then I'll go along with their decision. Making my own decisions hasn't been the most effective way for me to handle things so far. Maybe I'd better let the fans choose for me. No, I don't want to be a rulebreaker. But I want to be a champion."

Results of the poll will be printed in the August 1985 edition of *The Wrestler* on sale June 11. Write in your thoughts soon. Tommy needs to know. □

RIP OLIVER: "I CRIPPLED BILLY HAYNES—THE VON ERICHS ARE NEXT!"



JIM CORNETTE PULLED a rolled-up copy of the May 1985 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*—the special all-tag team issue of our sister publication—out of his back pocket. The magazine had obviously been well-read; indeed, it was nearly falling apart from use.

"Look at this, just look at this," Cornette howled to no one in particular, though the reporters in the dressing room could hardly ignore Cornette's shrieking voice. "Number 11, can you believe it? Those

Oliver stands over Haynes after ripping him apart in a match in Fort Worth, Texas (left). The same is in store for the Von Erichs, Oliver says. Oliver's manager, Jim Cornette, who also manages The Midnight Express (above), has issued a challenge to wrestling's "first family."

people who write that magazine should be arrested for impersonating journalists, you know what I'm saying?"

Cornette was looking at an article entitled, "Tag Team Scouting Report: *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Examines The Top 15 Teams."

"First of all, they have my champions, my Midnight Express, listed as 'Number one contenders for the World Class tag team title.' [Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton, the World Class champions at the time the article was written,

Rip "The Crippler" Oliver credits himself with successfully running Billy Haynes out of the World Class area. Now, with The Midnight Express as his partners and Jim Cornette as his manager, Oliver is setting his sights on the first family of professional wrestling: the Von Erichs

Photos by Buddy Myers

Oliver springs from the turnbuckles, aiming a knee at the already-stunned Haynes (above). Oliver drapes Haynes over his shoulder and executes a shoulder-breaker (right).

were ranked number five.] Wrong, editorial-stupidity-and-ignorance-of-reality breath! Loverboy Dennis and Beautiful Bobby *are* the World class tag team champions, and they will remain that way for a long time to come."

Cornette ripped out the page that ranked Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton 11th out of the 15 top tag teams in the sport and threw it in the garbage pail. Condrey and Eaton were standing nearby and began to laugh. "Good job, Jimmy," Eaton said, "that's what they deserve."

"And you want to see something else ridiculous?" Cornette asked to no one in particular, though everyone else in the dressing room knew that the answer was immediately forthcoming.

"Look at this, just look at this: Kerry Von Erich and Billy Jack! As a tag team! They've got to be kidding!"

Cornette was displaying the story, "Kerry Von Erich & Billy Jack: The Dream Team For Wrestling May Be A Nightmare For The Von Erichs!"

"The only nightmare here is that the Von Erichs continue to dupe the stupid sweathogs of Texas into believing that they're competent wrestlers," Cornette said. "They're not. They can't even hold a candle to my Midnight Express.

"And Billy Jack, Billy Haynes, whatever you want to call this guy with two names and no talent, he's another loaf of bread that came out of the oven five minutes too early, you catch my drift?"

Off to one side of the dressing room, Rip Oliver joined Condrey and Eaton in laughing at what Cornette was saying.

"Hey, Rip!" Cornette called, "Come on over here, tell these *reporters* what you told me the other day about Haynes and the Von Erich children."

Cornette said the word "reporters" with a tone of voice that might usually be reserved for pesky insurance salesmen or used car salesmen.

"You know something, Jim, I wonder about these Von Erichs. They're nothing but a bunch of musclebound idiots with a lot of fans and not too much brains. Just like Billy Haynes. *Hahaha!*"

Oliver's eyes gleamed as he mentioned Billy Haynes' name.

"Everyone who knows anything about anything about wrestling knows that I've been after Billy Haynes for a long time," Oliver said. "We had our battles in the Pacific Northwest, and I ran him out of there, and the punk went to Florida. I threatened to go to Florida, and the punk ran scared and went to the World Class area. And what happens when I come to the World Class area?"

Cornette, Condrey, and Eaton

chines of destruction against the Cartwright boys! The World Class area is Carson City, and pretty soon, the Ponderosa will be ours!"

Cornette, Oliver, Condrey, and Eaton all erupted into wild peals of uncontrollable laughter.

"Hoss, Adam, and Little Joe," Cornette said between laughs, "Kerry, Kevin, and little Mike! Those three Texas cowboys are going down for the count!"

Cornette took the copy of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, tore it in half, and threw it on the ground in disgust. "Number 11 in the tag team ratings, huh? Just wait until next month. Number one in the tag team category, number one in the six-man tag team category, and number one in the entire wrestling world.

"This is the dawning of a new era," Cornette said, "and the closing of the book on a professional wrestling embarrassment called The Von Erichs. Wake up and smell the roses, World Class fans, because Rip Oliver, Dennis Condrey, and Bobby Eaton—and yours truly—are going to be rewriting wrestling history." □

Referee Rick Hazzard keeps a close watch on Oliver's chinlock, making sure it doesn't slide down to Haynes' neck (above). Kevin Von Erich examines Billy's hideous facial wounds (below left). Haynes, doubled over, is assisted to the dressing room, as a horrified Sunshine hustles to keep up (below right).

reply in chorus: "Rip 'The Crippler' is the name!" Then they laughed hysterically.

"That's right," Oliver continued, "I crippled him. I finally caught up to that yellow-bellied little scuzball. I caught up to him after months and years of running. I guess little Billy Haynes just got tired of running, didn't he? And when he turned to fight, he just couldn't do anything to defend himself. He was helpless."

Cornette patted Oliver on the back with pride. "You were great, Rip, you were excellent. Those three Bonanza boys, Hoss, Adam, and Little Joe, had better take a close look at what you did to Billy Haynes, because they're next!"

"That's right!" Oliver said, "I crippled Billy Haynes, and the Von Erichs are next!"

"Six-man matches," Cornette said. "Rip Oliver, Beautiful Bobby, and Loverboy Dennis. Three ma-

Beyond the Squared Circle

Justin Race, the 14-year-old son of former NWA champ Harley Race, was part of an amateur wrestling exhibition at Kansas City's Kemper Arena.

Mid-South TV announcer Boyd Pierce and matchmaker Grizzly Smith pose for our photographer.

Heavyweight boxer Chuck Wepner, who once knocked down Muhammad Ali, shows Jerry Lawler his form.

When Dusty Rhodes goes to Las Vegas, he likes to drop a few coins in the one-armed bandits.

Remember the fight poster for the "Fight of the Century" between Muhammad Ali and Smokin' Joe Frazier, in March 1971? Well, it was similar to this shot, except NWA official Sandy Scott isn't as mean-looking as Ali.

Masked Superstar makes a solemn promise that his opponent will need this stretcher after their match.

Depending on the design, Road Warrior Hawk can take as much as one hour to paint his face.

This Baltimore fan had the thrill of a lifetime when he received a salute from Sgt. Slaughter.

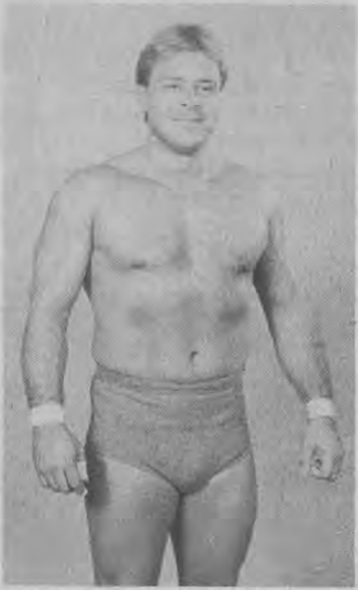
Sgt. Slaughter and his singing group "Camouflage" performed their song, "Cobra Clutch," before 18,000 Pro Wrestling U.S.A. fans in New Jersey's Meadowlands arena in February.

Fabulous One Steve Keirn gives a young Louisville, Kentucky, fan a kiss on the cheek and a lifelong memory.

The Youngbloods, Jay and Mark, are mobbed by fans outside of the Eddie Graham Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida. The Youngbloods recently lost their U.S. tag team belts to The PYTs.

OFFI WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Ronnie Garvin

TOP 10

1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec

3—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

4—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA

5—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

6—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL

7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

8—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

9—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA

10—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

TAG TEAMS

1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—**DUSTY RHODES & MANNY FERNANDEZ**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 565 pounds

3—**BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO**
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 475 pounds

4—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 479 pounds

5—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 453 pounds

6—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
World Class tag team champions
Combined weight: 472 pounds

7—**IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF**
No. 1 contenders for NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 524 pounds

8—**RON BASS & BLACK BART**
Mid-Atlantic tag team champions
Combined weight: 546 pounds

9—**GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL**
No. 1 contenders for AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 445 pounds

10—**KOKO WARE & NORVELL AUSTIN**
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 456 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

2—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA

3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

4—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

5—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

6—**JESSE BARR**
243, Portland, OR

7—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO

8—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford, England

9—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

10—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL

2—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA

3—**BOB BACKLUND**
242, Princeton, MN

4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

5—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**
282, Atlanta, GA

6—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA

7—**MR. SAITO**
247, Osaka, Japan

8—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
248, Appleton, MN

9—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN

10—**BILLY ROBINSON**
246, Manchester, England

MOST POPULAR

1—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

2—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA

3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

5—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec

6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

7—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX

8—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands

9—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

10—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA

MOST HATED

1—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland

2—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford, England

3—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

4—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC

5—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL

6—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX

7—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

8—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL

9—**JESSE BARR**
243, Portland, OR

10—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB

CIAL
G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:
HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

1—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA
2—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland
3—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX
4—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR
5—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
345, Siberia, Russia
6—JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands
7—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA
8—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL
9—COWBOY BOB ORTON
245, Kansas City, KS
10—THE IRON SHEIK
262, Teheran, Iran

GEORGIA

1—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
2—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
3—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN
4—RON STARR
238, Shreveport, LA
5—BOB ROOP
273, Tampa, FL
6—THUNDERBOLT PATTERSON
245, Atlanta, GA
7—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
360, Sudan
8—THE ITALIAN STALLION
240, Naples, Italy
9—RON RITCHIE
240, Tampa, FL
10—CHICK DONOVAN
237, Hollywood, CA

WORLD CLASS

1—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford, England
2—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
3—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
4—ONE MAN GANG
402, Chicago, IL
5—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
6—MIKE VON ERICH
220, Denton, TX
7—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL
8—ICEMAN PARSONS
245, St. Louis, MO
9—KELLY KINISKI
242, Vancouver, BC
10—JOHNNY MANTELL
230, Decatur, TX

MID-ATLANTIC

1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
2—RON BASS
265, Pampa, TX
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
5—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
6—IVAN KOLOFF
240, Moscow, Russia
7—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY
8—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia
9—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL
10—BUZZ TYLER
285, Rock Hill, SC

FLORIDA

1—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
2—JESSE BARR
243, Portland, OR
3—BRIAN BLAIR
237, Tampa, FL
4—DUTCH MANTEL
242, Bucksnorth, TN
5—PEZ WHATLEY
238, El Paso, TX
6—TERRY GORDY
289, Chatanooga, TN
7—MICHAEL HAYES
255, Marietta, GA
8—THE ASSASSIN
386, parts unknown
9—MIKE GRAHAM
229, Tampa, FL
10—THE MISSING LINK
273, parts unknown

MID-SOUTH

1—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
2—BRAD ARMSTRONG
223, Marietta, GA
3—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
4—BUTCH REED
265, Kansas City, MO
5—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, New York, NY
6—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK
7—BUDDY LANDELL
232, Jacksonville, FL
8—JAKE ROBERTS
243, Baton Rouge, LA
9—ERNIE LADD
354, Houston, TX
10—TIM HORNER
235, Morristown, TN

MID-SOUTHERN

1—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
2—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN
3—IRON MIKE SHARPE
271, Winnipeg, Manitoba
4—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
5—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
6—LANNY POFFO
228, Sarasota, FL
7—PLAYBOY FRAZIER
378, Memphis, TN
8—MR. WRESTLING
240, parts unknown
9—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET
234, South Wales
10—JERRY BRYANT
225, Memphis, TN

NORTHWEST

1—BOBBY JAGGERS
265, Dunlap, KS
2—KENDO NAGASAKI
248, Singapore
3—TOM PRITCHARD
220, Houston, TX
4—BILLY HAYNES
245, Portland, OR
5—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN
6—MATT BORNE
240, Milwaukie, OR
7—JERRY GREY
241, Tampa, FL
8—MR. EBONY
242, parts unknown
9—ARMANDO GUERRERO
210, Mexico
10—SCOTT FARRIS
235, Portland, OR

For period ended February 28, 1985

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Pro Wrestling U.S.A.: You've read a lot about *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* in this magazine; it's the only major wrestling television program that recognizes the stars of both the AWA and the NWA.

Wrestlers who join with the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. group are in a unique position in the wrestling world. They can maneuver themselves into contention for not one but *two* world titles: the NWA and the AWA World championships.

In addition, the NWA and AWA tag team titles (currently held by the teams of **Dusty Rhodes** & **Manny Fernandez** and **The Road Warriors**, respectively) have been defended on *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* cards, as have such major regional titles as the Americas heavyweight championship (currently held by **Larry Zbyszko**), the AWA junior heavyweight title (currently held by **Steve Regal**), and the U.S. heavyweight championship (currently held by **Wahoo McDaniel**).

Some notes on the ratings below: In the Top 10 category of our normal ratings, AWA World heavyweight champion **Rick Martel** is rated number two to NWA World heavyweight champion **Ric Flair's** number one. But in these *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* ratings, with the strong emphasis on the AWA, Martel edges Flair and captures the number one spot ... **Larry Zbyszko** is rated number three due to the fact that he holds the only Pro Wrestling U.S.A. exclusively-recognized title, the Americas championship ... While there is a strong emphasis on the AWA in Pro Wrestling U.S.A., some AWA stars compete more in the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. group than they do in strictly the AWA. As a result, AWA grapplers that do not appear in the AWA category of our regular ratings, such as **Baron Von Raschke**, are rated in the top 10 of this Pro Wrestling U.S.A. category.

Jerry Lawler

PRO WRESTLING U.S.A.

1—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
2—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
3—LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA
4—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
5—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL
6—BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN
7—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
8—JERRY BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA
9—MASKED SUPERSTAR
282, Atlanta, GA
10—BARON VON RASCHKE
271, Germany

What they think: On occasion, "Ratings Analysis" will present a section called "What they think," which will feature comments from three wrestlers rated in this issue concerning their place in the ratings.

Sgt. Slaughter

Sgt. Slaughter: *In the Top 10 category, Sgt. Slaughter moves up from last month's number nine spot to the number seven position. In the AWA, Slaughter remains in the number four spot, but moves up two notches from six to four in the Most Popular ratings. Slaughter is also ranked third in the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. ratings in this "Ratings Analysis."*

"I want to thank all my fans, the entire Cobra Corps, for supporting me so greatly since my move to the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. group. It's an honor and a privilige to be considered so highly in their eyes, as reflected in the popularity ratings. I've received some title shots with Ric Flair already, and I'm negotiating with Rick Martel for an AWA title match. Stick around, fans, the Sarge's battle plan is going right on schedule, and the best is yet to come."

Ivan Koloff

Ivan Koloff: *Ivan Koloff moves up one notch from number seven to number six in the Mid-Atlantic ratings, and the team of Ivan and Nikita Koloff—number one contenders to the NWA World tag team title—moves up to the number seven spot in the tag team category from last month's number eight position.*

"Mid-Atlantic ratings. Tag team ratings. All this proves is that the idiotic magazines are beginning to recognize what everyone should have known all along, which is the natural superiority of Russian athletes to puny Americans. The Koloffs are the strongest athletes in the sport, we are the best wrestlers, and we will have the NWA belts very soon."

Magnum T.A.: *Magnum T.A. jumps three spots to number five in the Mid-Atlantic, and two spots to number six in the Most Popular ratings.*

"I'm just out there doing my best in each match. I guess it's working!"

The address for mail: We always welcome comments and suggestions about our ratings and about "Ratings Analysis." We especially welcome suggestions on new sections for "Ratings Analysis." Send your cards and letters to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler;* Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. □

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Inside Wrestling

It could be Russia's finest vs. America's finest as **THE KOLOFFS** and **KHRUSHCHEV** challenge **THE VON ERICHS**

SGT. SLAUGHTER topples **RIC FLAIR**—so why isn't he NWA World champion?

PLUS . . .

ANDRE THE GIANT & **JUNKYARD DOG**: a great team, but no match for **JOHN STUDD** & **KEN PATERA** . . . **PAUL ELLERING** squashes the rumors: "**THE ROAD WARRIORS** are *not* breaking up!" . . . "Hotseat" interview with **KEVIN VON ERICH:** "I hate myself for hating **CHRIS ADAMS**!"

All this and much more . . . in the June 1985 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

Sgt. Slaughter is warned about his threatened illegal kick against Nikolai Volkoff. Reader Justin Domenicucci feels Slaughter deserted the WWF fans.

National Anthem by parading around the ring with an American flag. Slaughter never did that. He was probably too frightened.

The AWA can have Sgt. Slaughter. The WWF has America's Enforcers: Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo.

JUSTIN DOMENICUCCI
Bronx, NY

CHEAP SHOT

I've been reading your magazine for a long time and regard it as the leader in its field, but nothing has me more upset than the article that appeared in April *The Wrestler*, about The Tonga Kid and his cousin Superfly Jimmy Snuka.

In the story, Snuka was portrayed as a bloodthirsty maniac intent on dragging his cousin into a web of disaster. Making a warmhearted man like Snuka seem like a vicious freak disappointed me greatly. With animals like Roddy Piper, Paul Orndorff, and The Iron Sheik running around, one would think that you would have plenty of available targets to pick on. Leave Jimmy Snuka alone. He is an honorable and respectable man who deserves more than your potshot journalism.

JERRY HAMMONDS
Huntsville, AL

(Continued on page 50)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 49)

WAKE UP CALL

After reading so much about the complaints people have about WWF wrestling, I would like to share my opinion. I watch WWF and NWA wrestling weekly. True, the WWF shows a lot of repeats and mismatches. *Championship Wrestling From Georgia* with Gordon Solie may not show repeats, but they feature the same wrestlers every Saturday.

I feel the best show is *World Class Championship Wrestling* from Texas. This is a *wrestling* show. No "Piper's Pit," no Hillbilly training sessions, no talk and nonsense. They have better matches, feature many different wrestlers, and have more action.

What I will commend the WWF for is the fact that they bring their wrestling matches to my town. The NWA and AWA never comes to Los Angeles. Why is this so? There certainly is a positive response here, as every WWF match is sold out.

One other thing. Instead of watching repeats, why not feature a weekly spot with some classic matches from the '50s, '60s and '70s. I would love to see Killer Kowalski or Haystacks Calhoun or Bruno Sammartino. TV viewers never get to see cage matches or anything other than the normal 10 to 15-minute bouts. Wake up promoters. Be creative. Let's see some good wrestling.

WILL CROCKER
Los Angeles

HELMETS OFF TO WILLIAMS

I am writing to your magazine on behalf of my favorite and beloved wrestler in the Mid-South area, Steve "Dr. Death" Williams. I hardly ever see any photos of Steve in your magazine except in such uncomplimentary features such as "Thumbs Down." I would appreciate it if you would run some upbeat stories and color photos of Steve Wiliams. Now that the Mid-South officials have barred Steve from bringing his football helmet into the ring, he's been

Steve "Dr. Death" Williams does not get the coverage he deserves in *The Wrestler*, according to Mary Ann Blair.

very depressed. That helmet is his most prized possession and to prevent him from using it is a simple case of discrimination.

Steve will prove that he doesn't need a helmet to win, however. He's by far the toughest wrestler in the Mid-South and will go along dismantling the competition just as he's always done. Why don't you editors do yourself a favor and report on a real man for once.

MARY ANN BLAIR
Jackson, MS □

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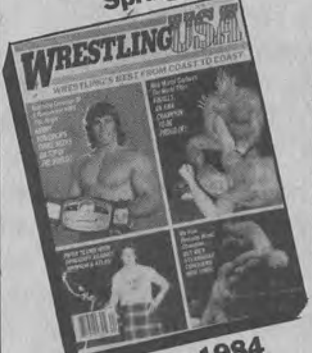

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

Capt. Lou Albano and Buddy Rogers have a heated exchange during a segment of "Rogers' Corner" in 1982. Jimmy Snuka, the subject of the discussion, looks on sheepishly. Rogers was the reason that Snuka originally left Albano.

perseverance is what any aspiring wrestler needs."

***

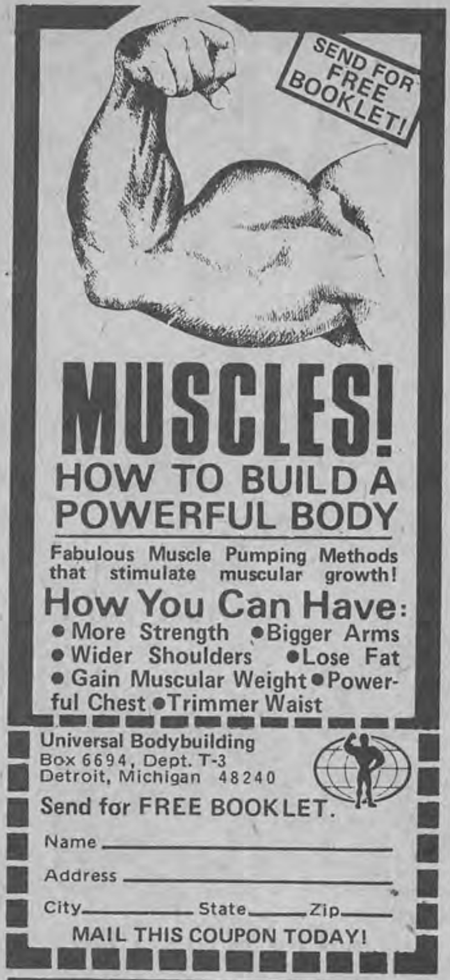
Q: "My question is for Buddy Rogers: What do you think about Capt. Lou Albano becoming a fan favorite and making up with your former wrestler, Jimmy Snuka?"—Bill Smith, West Babylon, NY

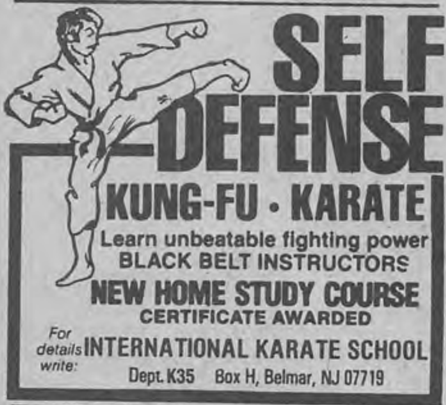
A: "Frankly, I can't believe it," Rogers said, "especially with the trouble that those two have had in the past. But I've heard there's a new Lou Albano. I think now that Snuka doesn't have to worry about Albano ripping him off, he can really benefit from Albano's expertise. Jimmy is a smart guy, and if he's convinced that Albano's changed, I would say that maybe the two of them should get back together again."

***

Q: "To Mr. Paul Ellering: In the clearly established dichotomy among the athletes defining professional wrestling in the current era, an overall measure of the balance of power seems to be tilting in favor of the so-called 'rulebreakers.' In your opinion, what accounts for this swing, and do you think it will persist?"—Prof. Richard Numrich, Athens, OH

A: "A fine question indeed, Prof. Numrich, and one that I'm pleased to answer," Ellering responded. "For a long time, the wrestling establishment has been duped. People have confused the so-called fan favorites as having exclusive possession of talent, when, in fact, they possess nothing except the limp cheers of the fans. A team like The Road Warriors confuses everyone. They're so obviously superior to anyone in wrestling that other skilled wrestlers are not bothering to court the fans any longer. The pervasive attitude now is "who cares about the fans?" We wrestle to win, to hurt, and to destroy. If the fans become smart enough to appreciate our skills, then all the better. But The Legion of Doom will never go out of its way to win support. We don't need it. And many fine wrestlers are beginning to agree with us." □





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August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

May 1982/COLOR POSTER: Ric Flair. Cover story: Wrestling II vs. Spoiler. PLUS: Backlund, McDaniel, Piper.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Koloff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. PLUS: Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR POSTER: Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

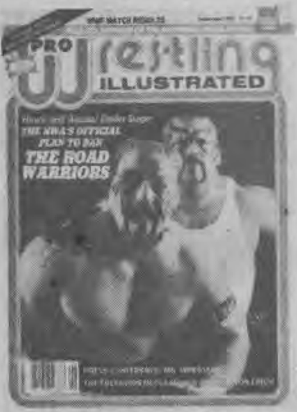
AUGUST 1983

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. PLUS: Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.



SEPTEMBER 1984

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. PLUS: Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR POSTER: Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. PLUS: JYD, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR POSTER: Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. PLUS: Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The *PWI* Years.

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. PLUS: Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR POSTER: Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. PLUS: Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR POSTER: Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. PLUS: Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR POSTER: Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION: Billy Jack, Roddy Piper, Ric Flair vs. Kerry Von Erich; PLUS: 1984—The Year In Review.

MARCH 1985

April 1985/COLOR POSTER: Ronnie Garvin. Cover story: Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

May 1985/COLOR POSTER: Road Warriors. SPECIAL TAG TEAM ISSUE! Cover story: Fabulous Ones & Rock 'n' Roll Express. PLUS: Windham & Rotundo, Von Erich & Billy Haynes, *PWI* Rates Top 15 teams.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

Raschke. Look for a special close-up on these and other big matches from "Star Wars '85" in a special section in the June 1985 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling,* on sale April 23.

There is a new pair of U.S. heavyweight tag team champions:

The PYTs, Koko Ware and Norvell Austin, defeated the Youngbloods for the U.S. tag team title.

The Pretty Young Things, Norvell Austin and **Koko Ware**, managed in the Sunshine State by **Percy Pringle**, defeated the team of **Jay** and **Mark Youngblood** on February 26 in Tampa, Florida, to capture the belts.

Following his loss of a loser-leave-town match to **Jerry Lawler, Jimmy Hart** has been banned from the Mid-Southern area for a period of one year. But while Hart has gone to the WWF to manage Intercontinental heavyweight champion **Greg "The Hammer" Valentine**, a relative of Hart's by the name of **T.H. Hart** has taken his place. T.H. is currently advising the army of **General Eddie Gilbert**, which also includes **Lieutenant Playboy Frazier**, **Private Jerry Bryant**, and **Iron Mike Sharpe**, who will receive a ranking shortly.

Lelani Kai captured the World Women's wrestling title from **Wendi Richter** on February 18, 1985, in New York's Madison

Lelani Kai turned women's wrestling upside down with her upset victory over Wendi Richter at Madison Square Garden.

Square Garden. Rock star **Cyndi Lauper** was in Richter's corner for the match, and former World Women's champion **The Fabulous Moolah** was managing Kai. Fighting broke out during the match between Moolah and Lauper; seeing the fighting, Richter ran through the ropes and tried to help Lauper. Moolah sucker-punched Richter, which made her an easy target for Kai's pin attempt. Kai has come back to successfully defend the title in rematches against Richter in several arenas around the country.

Capt. Lou Albano will star in a new comedy film called *Wiseguys,* to be directed by **Brian DePalma** and produced by **Aaron Russo**. Albano portrays a character named **Frankie the Fixer**, a Mafia hit man, and shares billing on the film with former *Saturday Night Live* star **Joe Piscopo** and **Danny DeVito**, who played Louie on the hit television series *Taxi.* The film is scheduled to be released sometime near Christmas, 1985. Albano, meanwhile, is now managing **Hillbilly Jim**, who is being trained by WWF champion **Hulk Hogan**. With

that kind of help, Big Jim should be a terrific wrestler before long!

Brian Adidas is back in the World Class area; Adidas grew up and attended grade school with **Kerry Von Erich** . . . NWA World heavyweight champion **Ric Flair** scored a pinfall victory over **Rick**

Brian Adidas, a longtime friend of Kerry Von Erich's, is now wrestling in the World Class area.

Steamboat recently in Philadelphia . . . **The Road Warriors** traveled to Montreal and defeated the team of **Jos LeDuc** and **Gino Brito**; "**Hawk** and **Animal** hardly even broke sweat in that match," boasted the Warriors' manager **Precious Paul Ellering,** "it was a complete cake-walk all the way!"

Like many of you, I watched the February 21 installment of ABC News' *20/20* program, and the report on professional wrestling by **John Stossel**. I would like to address your attention to Managing Editor **Stu Saks'** "Behind The Dressing Room Door" column in the June 1985 issue of *Inside Wrestling*, which addresses Stossel's report and makes some very important points on the subject. If you're still thinking about that *20/20* piece, I urge you to read that column.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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ZBYSZKO-BACKLUND

(Continued from page 30)

Backlund tries to maneuver Zbyszko into the chicken wing. Larry would complain to the referee that Bob was choking him with his right hand.

held in great respect by wrestling fans all over the world. In record time, Zbyszko managed to make it seem dirty.

It was inevitable that Zbyszko and Backlund would once again meet in combat. Zybszko never forgave Backlund for becoming the man Larry always wanted to be. Backlund never forgave Zbyszko for turning on wrestling and Sammartino. When Backlund lost his title, Zbyszko celebrated. When Backlund returned to wrestling after his sabbatical, Zbyszko quickly issued a challenge.

"I'll show Bob Backlund how a real champion wrestles," Zbyszko was reported to have said. "He made me gag when he was WWF champion. Now, he's the challenger and has to look up to me. If he wants my belt, I'm ready to give him the chance. I won't wait like he made me wait, either. And I won't buy the referee like he always did. No, I'm going to humiliate him in a fair battle. Man against man, or as close to a man as he can imitate.

"Yeah, I hate him. Everything he stands for makes me sick. When he was champion, all his sanctimonious drivel hid the fact he was a lousy wrestler and corrupt clown. He was like Sammar-

(Continued on page 58)

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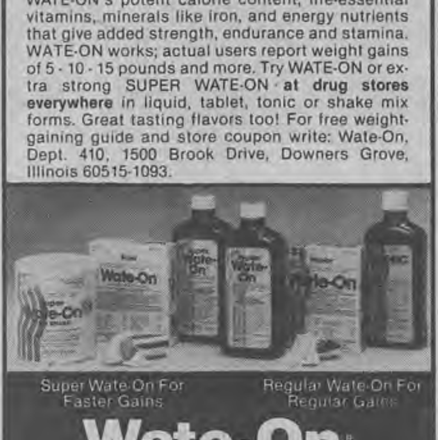

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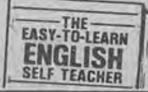

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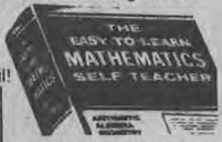

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ZBYSZKO-BACKLUND

(Continued from page 57)

tino in a lot of ways, all the time hiding behind righteousness. If they say they're good people, let's let them get away with anything. Sammartino was one of the dirtiest wrestlers who ever lived. Backlund didn't have Bruno's imagination when it came to cheating, but he was close. Both men hid their dirty tactics behind a cloak of sweetness. The fans bought it. For too long, I bought it. Now I'm going to make Backlund pay for all the time he treated me like a stooge."

While Backlund despises everything Zbyszko represents, there is much sorrow in his voice when he talks about Larry. Backlund recalls their friendship and regrets he couldn't have been a better friend when Larry needed him most.

"When Larry had the rift with Sammartino," Backlund recalls, "Larry needed somebody in his corner. It wasn't easy, because during that time he was lashing out at everybody. I was champion then; I had a lot on my mind. I couldn't devote hours every day running after Larry and trying to calm him down. I tried to talk to him but he wouldn't let me. Maybe a really good friend would have kept trying. Maybe a really good friend would have kept him from becoming the man he is to-

Zbyszko, who feels he is technically superior to Backlund, twists Bob's head.

The Americas champion hammers Backlund with both fists.

day. A champion doesn't have time to be a really good friend.

"I also think I had something to do with the rift between Bruno and Larry. When I came along and won the title, I did what Larry thought Bruno expected him to do. After all, I won the title from the man who won it from Bruno. Larry wanted to be the man who avenged Bruno's defeat. I always felt Larry saw my success as his personal failure, his inability to be what Bruno wanted. He began to blame the failure on Bruno and everything Bruno taught him. If a veteran had avenged Bruno's loss, that might have been different. But I was a young guy just like Larry and I succeeded where Larry didn't. My success rubbed Larry's nose in his own failure. Fate made me the man who made Larry's life unbearable.

"I can see where Larry might hate me. I'm sorry. At the same time, my love of wrestling compels me to try for his Americas title. Whatever I feel about Larry personally, professionally he is a disgrace that must be eradicated. To do that, the title has to be taken from him."

Zybszko can't wait for Backlund to try as often as he likes to take the Americas belt. Each match gives Zbyszko the chance to end Backlund's career permanently. ☐

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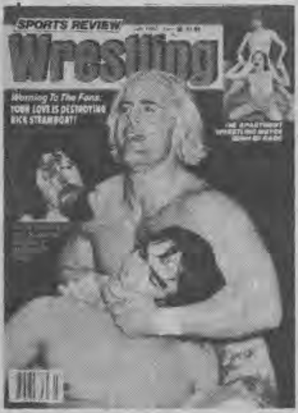

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August 1979/Cover story: Bruno-Koloff. PLUS: Flair, Orndorff, Funk.

September 1979/Cover story: Flair-McDaniel. PLUS: Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

January 1980/Cover stories: Albano-Andre, Flair-Jones. PLUS: Race, Valiant.

February 1980/Cover story: Rhodes-Funk. PLUS: Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

April 1980/Cover stories: Andre, Mulligan-Studd, PLUS: LeDuc, Lawler, Ladd.

May 1980/Cover stories: Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler. PLUS: Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Cover stories: Graham, Patera. PLUS: Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Cover story: Bruno-Graham. PLUS: Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Cover story: Hogan. PLUS: Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Cover story: Morales-Fuji. PLUS: Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

March 1981/Cover story: SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Poll

April 1981/Cover story: Atlas. PLUS: Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Cover stories: Morales-Khan. PLUS: Lawler, Slater, Piper.

August 1981/Cover story: Freebirds. PLUS: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.

September 1981/Cover story: Backlund-Mosca. PLUS: Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Cover stories: Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen. PLUS: Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Cover story: Rhodes-DiBiase. PLUS: Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Cover story: Muraco-Morales. PLUS: Patera, Steele, Andre.

January 1982/Cover story: Backlund-Muraco. PLUS: Blassie, Andre, Rhodes.

March 1982/Cover stories: Valentine, Brisco-Funk. PLUS: Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Cover stories: Spoiler, Idol-Hayes. PLUS: Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Cover story: Rich-Flair. PLUS: Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Cover stories: Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Cover stories: Steamboat-Idol, Albano. PLUS: Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Cover stories: Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater. PLUS: Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

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December 1982/Cover stories: Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair. PLUS: Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Cover stories: Rich, McDaniel-Valentine. PLUS: Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Cover stories: Flair-Race, Morales-Rose. PLUS: Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

NOVEMBER 1984

March 1983/Cover stories: Flair-Bass, Snuka. PLUS: Sullivan, Steamboat.

April 1983/Cover stories: Backlund-Graham, Briscos. PLUS: Rhodes, Hogan.

May 1983/Cover story: Muraco. PLUS: Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco.

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

strap. Embry could no longer keep his grip and fell into the ring, losing the match.

In other bouts, Rick Casey and Al Madril defeated the New Zealand Maoris by disqualification . . . Ron Sexton and The Mummy beat Manuel Vialobose and Chicky Starr . . . Vinnie Valentino beat The Snake.

Broken Arrow, OK (*Correspondent*—Kevin Beck): Recently, Mid-South Wrestling held a special Super Bowl spectacular featuring a main-event cage match between "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan and Steve "Dr. Death" Williams.

The match started before the bell as Williams rammed Duggan's head into the steel cage several times. Duggan's face became a crimson mess of blood as he continued to get beaten by a possessed Williams. Williams finally threw Duggan into the cage and attempted to climb over the steel walls. Duggan, however, recovered enough to grab Williams and hurl him back into the ring. He worked on Williams' arm for several minutes and then threw him into the ropes and clotheslined him. The two went into the ropes again and collided in midring. Again, Williams tried to ecape from the cage. Duggan caught him from behind and tossed him across the ring. Duggan then bodyslammed Dr. Death across the turnbuckle. Williams landed on his groin and slumped to the canvas where Duggan covered him for an easy pin. Williams had to carried from the ring on a stretcher.

In other bouts, Kerry Von Erich defeated Ted DiBiase . . . The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Sheik Hercules Hernandez and Gino Hernandez . . . "Hacksaw" Butch Reed and Kamala fought to a double-disqualification . . . Chavo and Hector Guerrero beat Tim Horner and Private Terry Daniels . . . Terry Taylor defeated Dale Vesey . . . Iceman King Parsons beat Jack Victory . . . Johnny Mantell and Shawn Michaels wrestled to a 15-minute draw.

Marietta, GA (*Correspondent*—Steve Hendrix)—The Civic Center had all the excitement it could handle as National heavyweight champion Ronnie Garvin teamed with "Mr. Excitement" Dick Slater to battle against U.S. heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel and National TV champion Bob Roop.

As could be expected, not many rules were observed in this war. McDaniel and Roop started out by double-teaming Garvin with

Wahoo McDaniel prevents Dick Slater from tagging his partner, Ronnie Garvin.

kicks and punches. By the time Garvin struggled over to his corner to tag Slater, his face dripped blood like a leaky faucet. Slater began to work on Roop, and when McDaniel joined the fracas, Garvin decided to jump in as well. So now all four men were slugging it out in center ring. Roop moved in to bodyslam Garvin, but Slater acted quick enough to knock Roop from the ring. Garvin than tripped McDaniel, and he and Slater fell on the Wahoo for the pin.

In other bouts, Tommy Rich defeated Ivan Koloff by disqualification . . . Ron Starr defeated the Italian Stallion . . . The Fabulous Rock 'n' Roll RPMs beat Rip Rogers and Chick Donovan □

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RHODES-BLANCHARD

(Continued from page 33)

to battle Dusty's figure-four.

"That's right, Blanchard, bimbo! She's nothing but a bimbo who blindly follows your orders. Baby Doll is no Barbie doll, Blanchard, and she better learn that if she wants to dance with The Dream, she's gonna have to pay the band, you know what I'm saying? Now The Dream don't go around hittin' women, but Baby Doll is no woman—and when she steps into that ring and messes with my business, she's leaving herself open to retaliation from The Dream!"

With Blanchard caught in Dusty's figure-four leglock, Baby Doll ran into the ring and began beating Rhodes. This is no 120-pound skinny woman; Baby Doll—until recently known as "Nicola Roberts, The Lady Giant"—stands 6'1" and weighs 205 pounds. In a blind attack from behind, that woman's frame counts for a lot of power.

"Listen here, Tully Blanchard. You're a coward. You're not a man, you're a yellow-bellied coward who has to hide behind a female and let her do the man's job that you can't do for yourself. How does that feel, Tully? How does that feel? Are you proud of yourself, daddy, are you able to sleep at night?

"Well keep listening, brat, because I'm putting you on warning right now. You have Baby Doll hitting me from behind. You run like a jackrabbit when the going get's tough and The Dream gets going. You're a worthless little pebble of slime, Blanchard, and I'm going to deal with you like all

Blood spurts from Dusty Rhodes' facial wounds and stains his entire body as Blanchard clamps on a rear chinlock.

Rhodes grabs the upper hand as the match strays from the ring. Dusty executes a spinecrusher (below left) and throws Tully's head into a chair (below right).

Rhodes will send a wobbly-legged Blanchard to the mat with a clubbing blow to the top of the head.

slime should be dealt with. And that goes for your bimbo valet, too. I'm gonna slam you down, sucker, slam you down and go to town!"

Dusty let go of the microphone and it fell into the small puddle of blood on the mat that had accumulated from the drippings off his head. He stepped out of the ring to the tumultuous cheers of the Mid-Atlantic fans and began making his way back to his dressing room.

As Dusty walked through the crowd, fans rushed to his side to pat him on the back and offer their encouragement:

"You got it, Dusty!"

"Go to it, Dream!"

"Make Tully and Baby Doll pay, Dusty, make them pay!"

A smile remained on Dusty's face as the guards accompanying him guided him past a steel barrier toward the dressing room. Before walking through the doorway, Dusty turned to the crowd and screamed at the top of his lungs:

"I'm gonna slam that sucker down!"

The deafening cheers of the fans was all the reply that Dusty could have asked for. □

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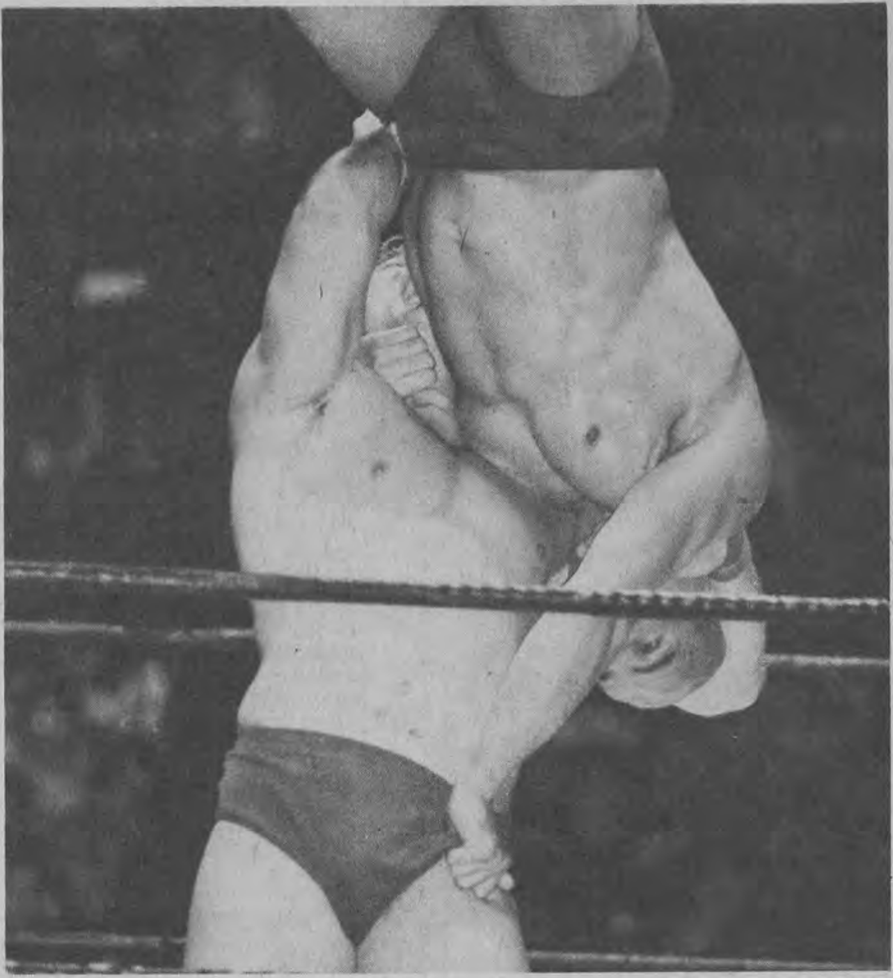
BARRY WINDHAM

(Continued from page 35)



There are several theories as to why Barry Windham has been made the target of WWF rulebreakers. But Windham is not going to let the potential danger affect his wrestling. Barry suplexes The Iron Sheik.

envy and despise. From the moment Windham entered wrestling, he's been the Golden Boy, the favorite son. In fact, he is the son of Blackjack Mulligan, once one of the most feared rulebreakers in the world. After Barry came into the sport, his father found it more and more difficult to be a rulebreaker. Many rulebreakers blame Windham for Mulligan's confusion. For his relationship with the fans, Barry has earned the hatred of rulebreakers everywhere. They fear what they cannot understand.

The vendetta against Windham has now spread throughout the ranks of WWF rulebreakers. Each man longs to be the one who will drive Windham from wrestling. New maneuvers are being devised specifically to end Barry's career. In a rage of communal spirit, rulebreakers are giving each other advice, helping each other practice destruction. Perhaps if they can't be the man to destroy Windham, each rulebreaker hopes to share some of the credit if his colleague succeeds. And if there's one thing the WWF rulebreakers know in their bones, it's that they will succeed.

Is there anything Windham can do? He knows he's been targeted. A smart man might leave the sport for a while, hoping the rage against him will dissipate in time. In fact, many of Windham's friends have been urging him to take a vacation. Barry has ignored their warnings. Instead, he has a full schedule of tag team title defenses. He's giving an opportunity to everyone who wants a shot at him.

Barry Windham is a brave man. Those who admire him hope his luck is as great as his courage. □

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MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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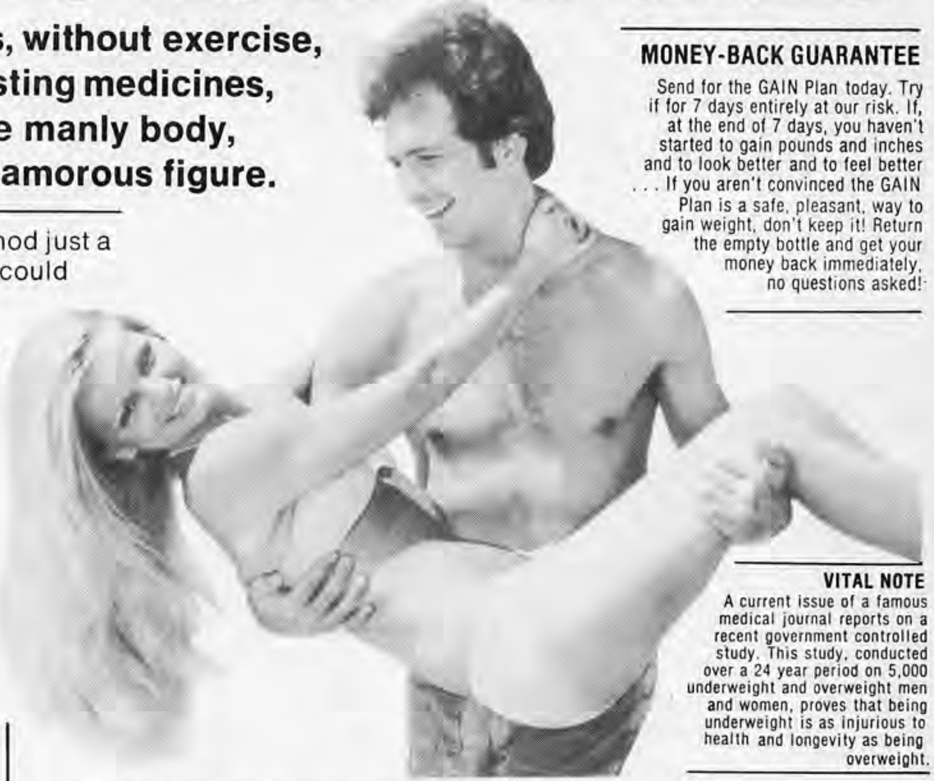

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This exciting method is easy, pleasant, and medically sound beyond a shadow of a doubt, and your own Doctor could tell you the same thing.

VITAL NOTE

A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

HERE'S ALL YOU DO

Before meals, or whenever you feel like it, you take delicious, chewable, nutritionally fortified GAIN tablets and that's it! No other medication to take. Nothing difficult or unpleasant to do, and without even being aware of it, a wonderfully exciting change takes place.

Those high-calorie GAIN tablets are rich in body-building materials! They not only add weight themselves, but they sharpen your appetite! You look forward to mealtimes, and without even realizing it, you start to eat more and almost immediately the weight gaining process begins!

As you follow your GAIN Plan which includes nutritional high calorie menus. You add pounds and inches to your arms, legs, chest, hips, everywhere. You'll be amazed at the fantastic transformation that occurs . . . as thin, unattractive areas start to develop into new magnetic appeal. You'll be thrilled to discover that as you gain weight you will have more pep and energy for all the wonderful things in life!

THINK OF WHAT THIS CAN MEAN TO YOU

If you are one of those unfortunate people who can't wear all the new high style clothes you want to wear . . . if you are ashamed of the way you look in a bathing suit . . . embarrassed because your legs are too thin and spindly . . . your chest is too flat . . . your arms aren't the full, rounded limbs they were meant to be . . . If you long for a more attractive-looking body, the safe, pleasant GAIN Plan can be the answer to your prayers!

Yes, now, with the GAIN Plan to help, it's so easy, so pleasant to add pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh . . . so full-filling to feel better, stronger, more vital and alive! But don't take our word for it. Prove it to yourself at our risk!

If you sincerely want to gain weight, and to look better and feel better as a result,

HERE IS OUR OFFER . . .

We honestly believe the GAIN Plan to be the finest and most effective product of its type sold anywhere in the world today, and to prove our confidence, we are backing that statement up with this honest, straight-forward offer . . .

Try the fabulous new GAIN Plan in your own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt . . . even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and a least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

What could be fairer than that? The next move is up to you. Once and for all, determine to do something about your underweight! We know you'll be happy you did.

SKINNY MEN AND WOMEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE

. . . a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give the GAIN Plan a chance to help build you up and put firm flesh on you.

GAIN IS SAFE

GAIN is not a dangerous drug, medicine or a fishy-tasting oil. It is made of safe, pure ingredients, contains nothing which could possibly harm you, and may even be taken with complete safety by children.

MAIL NO-RISK COUPON TODAY

GAIN PRODUCTS CORP. Dept. G967
Box 2346, Carbondale, Ill. 62901

Please send my package of GAIN Plan immediately with the understanding that if I am not satisfied, I may have my money back, no questions asked.

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☐ SAVE $2.00! Order 2 for $17.96
☐ SAVE $5.00! Order 3 for $25.00
Enclosed is $______

☐ cash, ☐ check or ☐ money order

NAME ______ please print
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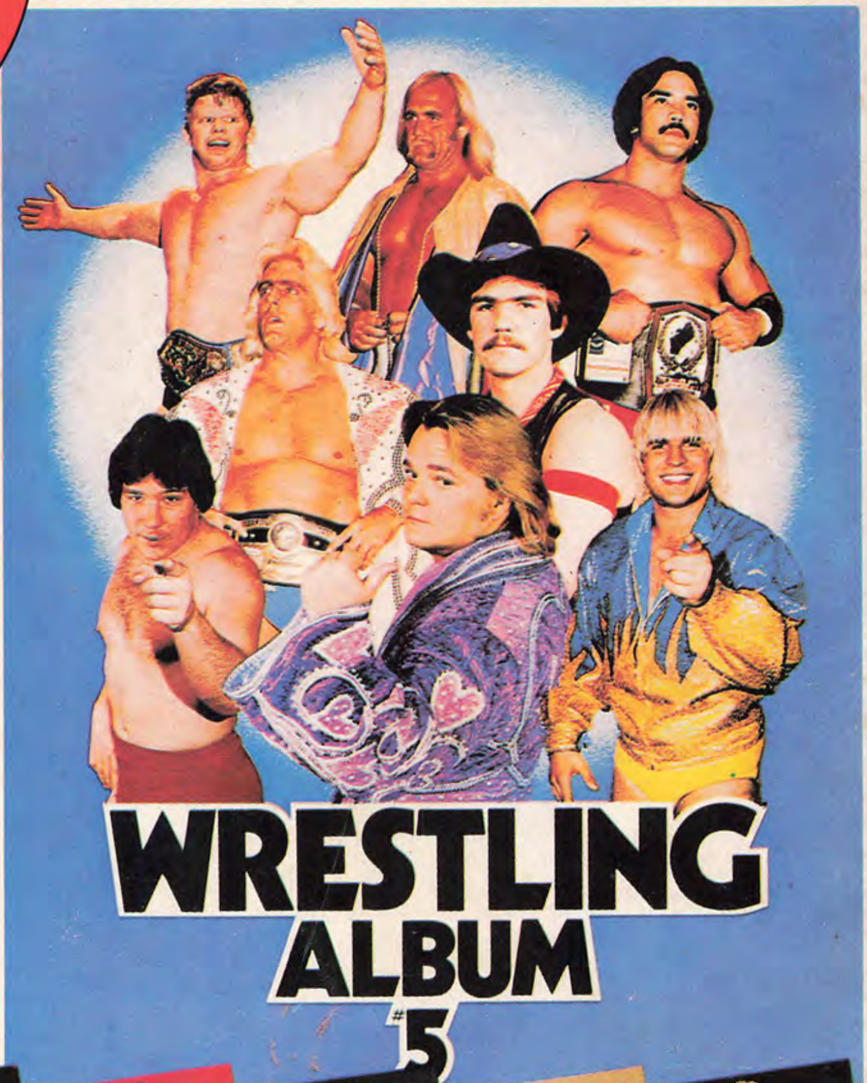
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